

Summary Minutes
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWAC)
February 20, 2003
SWACO Office Building
4239 London-Groveport Rd.
Grove City, OH 43123

Members in Attendance:

Erv Ball, Health Departments
Brad Couch, Statewide Environmental Advocacy Org.
James Gilliland, Counties
Karl Graham, Municipalities
Dan Harris, EPA's Director's Designee
Dell Heitcamp, Public
Ron Kolbash, ODNR Director's Designee
Mike Long, Single County SWMDs
Richard Mavis, Municipalities
Antoinette Starkey, Private Recycling Industry
Joe Sykes, Townships
Kathy Trent, Private Solid Waste Management
Tim Wasserman, Joint County SWMDs
Richard Williams, Townships

Mr. Harris expressed appreciation, on behalf of Council members, for the meeting accommodations provided by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

November 21st, 2002 Meeting Minutes Approved

The first order of business was to review and approve the November 21, 2002 meeting minutes. Karl Graham MOVED to approve the minutes, Erv Ball SECONDED the motion. The minutes were approved on voice vote.

Update on Legislative/DSIWM Issues

Mr. Harris explained that the General Assembly is focused on the state budget, and, so far, there is little indication for any other legislative efforts regarding solid waste issues.

Mr. Harris stated that DSIWM is aware of Senator Carnes' interest in proposing legislation for C&DD. It appears that Senator Carnes may propose legislation similar to what he proposed to the last General Assembly (SB 199). Mr. Harris reminded Council members that Director Jones met with Senator Carnes regarding SB 199, and the Agency was supportive of the Bill. It is expected that the Agency would also be supportive of any similar Bill proposed in this legislative session.

Mr. Long and Ms. Trent provided an update for HB 61. This bill is being proposed by Representative Kearns, and the contents of the Bill are the same as proposed last year by Representative Kearns in HB 177. This legislation would allow an "affected community," defined as a municipality, township, or county within a certain distance of a solid waste disposal facility, that is not the actual host community to make a proposal to the solid waste management district to enter into a negotiated agreement to compensate the "affected community." These compensations could be for road repair, emergency services, etc.

Mr. Harris informed Council members on the progress of two DSIWM rule packages. The Joint Committee of Agency Rule Review (JCARR) hearing for the composting rules was February 9, 2003. DSIWM is preparing to final file the composting rules. The effective date selected for the new rules will afford all interested parties the opportunity to attend a DSIWM composting rules training session prior to the date the rules become effective. The JCARR hearing for the landfill rules package is scheduled for March 4, 2003. DSIWM is aware of some concerns that have been expressed for this rule package regarding the variance and exemption portions of the rules. DSIWM also anticipates comments on the landfill rules regarding the new requirement for a separatory liner. Nevertheless, if the landfill rules package is passed by JCARR, an effective date for the new rules will be selected to afford all interested parties the opportunity to attend a DSIWM landfill rules training session prior to the date the rules become effective.

Mr. Booker, DSIWM Planning Unit Supervisor, provided an update regarding the topic of federal legislation. DSIWM anticipates that legislation will be introduced at the federal level regarding out-of-state waste. A member of SWACO's staff provided an update for Council members to share what SWACO has learned about federal legislation for out-of-state waste. Mr. Harris said that the Director anticipates providing testimony on any federal legislative effort regarding out-of-state waste.

Chris Hodges, Lake County Solid Waste Management District, Curbside Recycling in Lake County

Mr. Hodges presented information about the curbside recycling program that has been available in Lake County since 1993. According to Mr. Hodges, the curbside recycling program offered in Lake County provides weekly collection of recyclables for all residents of Lake County. The curbside recycling program is offered to approximately 73,000 homes and recovers more than 13,000 tons of recyclables annually. It has been determined that there is an overall participation rate for the program between 63-70 percent. The Lake County commissioners understand the popularity and success of the curbside recycling program and are committed to continuing this program.

In the past, the Lake County curbside recycling program was fully funded through tipping fees collected at the County-owned landfill. However, landfill tipping fees will not be sufficient to cover the entire cost for this program in the future. Therefore, beginning in 2003, Lake County communities will be required to contribute funding for the curbside

recycling programs in order to sustain these programs at the current level of service.

Communities will continue to receive a limited amount of funding for the curbside recycling programs offered in their area through the tipping fee revenue. This funding will be authorized through contracts with the Lake County Solid Waste Management District. The Lake County Solid Waste Management District will receive one million dollars in revenue each year from landfill tipping fees that is earmarked for community curbside recycling programs. Despite this, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District has determined that an additional amount of \$0.69 per resident per month will be required in order to sustain the curbside recycling program at the current level of service.

It was anticipated that the communities may look to their residents to provide the additional funding for the curbside recycling program. The Lake County Solid Waste Management District conducted a survey to determine how residents may react to a tax increase for continuation of the program. There was a 75 percent response to this survey. The results of the survey indicated that 80 percent of survey respondents expressed a desire for continuation of curbside recycling services, even if it meant they may be required to participate financially. Having received this feedback, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District met with the communities to discuss the continuation of the curbside recycling programs. Of the 21 Lake County communities, only one community has opted to charge its residents. A second community has agreed to cover the program costs for a year and then ask residents to cover the program expenses in the future. One small Lake County community opted to end its curbside recycling program altogether and replace it with a drop-off program.

The Lake County Solid Waste Management District plans to be proactive and keep the value of the community curbside recycling program in the forefront of resident's minds. The Lake County Solid Waste Management District believes it is very important to educate residents about the benefits of these programs since some of the financial burden for continuation of these programs may directly fall on the shoulders of the public at some point in the future.

Mr. Booker expressed appreciation to Mr. Hodges for Lake County's commitment to the planning process that has resulted in the continuation of curbside recycling services.

Mr. Hodges' discussion about educational efforts reminded the Council of the recent statewide recycling awareness campaign promoted by ODNR. Mr. Kolbash explained that there is no good way to judge the effects of the recycling awareness campaign. However, ODNR is confident that it raised the level of recycling awareness in Ohio. Mr. Kolbash credited the State of California as the source of the material used by ODNR for the recent recycling awareness campaign.

Karl Graham, City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati's Curbside Recycling and Yard Waste Programs

Mr. Graham presented information about the curbside recycling program that has been available in Cincinnati since 1989. The curbside program services 105,000 households and recovers between 10,000 - 11,000 tons of recyclables annually. It has been determined that there is an overall participation rate for the program between 38-40 percent.

The Cincinnati curbside recycling program costs the city \$2,000,000 annually. Although Cincinnati operates its own solid waste collection program, the recycling services are provided through a contractual agreement with a private company. Yard waste collection is provided by the City through a weekly curbside collection during the months of April through January.

Cincinnati, like many other communities, has recently experienced a budget crisis. The curbside recycling program and the yard waste program were identified as possible areas where the City could cut back on costs. However, as a result of citizen input received by the Mayor and City Council, it was decided that these programs would remain. Funds were allocated to the curbside recycling program and the yard waste program to sustain these programs for 2003. However, these two programs will be reviewed again for the City's 2004 budget year.

The City passed a motion to aggressively pursue managed competition for the provision of services for the curbside recycling program. The goal is to use the cost savings realized through this to help pay for the program in 2004. Mr. Graham defined "managed competition" as selecting who would provide the services at the lowest cost, whether the services be publically or privately operated.

Mr. Graham also credited the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District for assisting the City with the continuation of the curbside recycling program and the yard waste program. The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District provided funds to do an analysis for the yard waste program to help discover a way to save costs and continue providing the program. The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District also offered staff and research assistance to analyze how to reduce costs for the curbside recycling program and maintain the service.

Kathy Trent, Waste Management, Update on Waste Management's Recycle America Partnership

Ms. Trent informed Council members that in early January Waste Management announced the creation of a new company called Recycle America Alliance (RAA). The goal of the alliance is to optimize the capacity and improve the profitability of the company's recycling line of business by combining assets and operations with a number of other key domestic recycling processors and marketers.

According to Ms. Trent, RAA is the nation's largest recycling company and it has the capability to process recyclables on a large scale. Waste Management believes that

existing MRFs will be used in a more cost efficient manner by RAA which should, in turn, improve the sustainability of recycling markets. The goal is improved processing that results in recyclable materials getting into the hands of the end user more efficiently.

According to Ms. Trent, RAA has three primary MRFs in Ohio. These were identified as the Cleveland MRF (the Peltz Group), the Columbus MRF located in Canal Winchester, and the Dayton MRF (Koogler Suburban).

Dan Harris, Ohio EPA, DSIWM, State Budget Update

Mr. Harris explained that the State fiscal year 2003 budget expires June 30, 2003. There is a deficit for this budget that has caused the Governor to implement a number of cuts to programs that rely on the State's general revenue fund.

Another budget issue the State is dealing with is the upcoming biennium budget. The Governor has proposed the 2004-2005 biennium budget. This budget needs to be in place by July 1, 2003. This is the budget cycle that will include a number of user fee increases, including DSIWM's proposed fee increase for solid waste disposal.

Director Jones has provided testimony to the legislative budget committees. The Director is expected to provide additional testimony regarding the Agency's budget to the finance subcommittee sometime within the next month.

Mr. Harris offered the opportunity to meet with anyone who is interested in learning more about DSIWM's proposed fee increase and to provide a general understanding of how DSIWM has dealt with the program costs associated with DSIWM-provided services in the past.

Andrew Booker, Ohio EPA, DSIWM, Drop-off Study

Mr. Booker reminded Council members that the most recent State Solid Waste Management Plan included a commitment for the Agency to look at the access goal. As a result, DSIWM applied for and obtained a grant from U.S. EPA to conduct a drop-off study.

The total amount of money available for this study is \$60,000. This total is a result of funding by the grant (\$30,000), ODNR (\$25,000), and Ohio EPA (\$5,000).

As of now, there are seventeen solid waste management districts that have submitted data for the drop-off study. DSIWM expects to hear from at least five additional solid waste management districts. Information is being provided by the solid waste management districts to help determine which sites will be used in the drop-off study.

DSIWM is working with ODNR and the Association of Ohio Recyclers to identify universities

that may be available to provide contract services for the drop-off study. If selected the university will be responsible for finalizing the methodologies to be used for the study and to implement a data collection survey.

Mike Long, SWACO and Don Bogner, Genahol, SWACO Waste to Ethanol Project

Mr. Long explained that the Franklin County Landfill is estimated to have 35 years of remaining capacity. However, SWACO is in the process of exploring options that may extend the “life” of the Franklin County Landfill beyond this expected time frame. This has led SWACO to explore the idea of establishing a partnership with a private company identified as Genahol Incorporated.

According to Mr. Long, large amounts of fiber and food wastes are routinely disposed at the Franklin County Landfill. Genahol Incorporated has expressed an interest in using this fiber waste and green biomass waste in order to produce ethanol feedstock. Loads arriving at the landfill could be diverted to a transfer facility, and the useable materials could be recovered.

Mr. Bogner, Genahol President, estimates that a system to recover the “green wastes” at the Franklin County Landfill has the potential to divert 500-750 tons of waste per day and produce 7.5-10 million gallons of ethanol each year.

Potential Future Agenda Topics

- Interstate waste flow issues being considered at the federal level—how might Ohio be impacted?
- Out-of-State disposal figures for 2002, if available.
- Voluntary recycling reporting form for private companies.
- Mt. Vernon, Pay-as-you-throw curbside recycling
- ODNR’s waste characterization study—preliminary overview.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2003 to be held at Highbanks Metro Park from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Erv Ball, Vice Chair

Minutes approved on: _____

Certified by: _____
Kathy Trent, Secretary