

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
HAMILTON COUNTY RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE**

DATE: November 15, 2018

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road - First Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Sydney Sauer, Student Representative
Tom Turchiano, Public Member

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Joy Landry, Public Relations Specialist
Jenny Lohmann, Program Specialist
Brad Miller, Interim Director
Cher Mohring, Program Specialist
Angela Rivera, Outreach Specialist
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk
Mary Sticklen, Business Specialist

Others in Attendance

Brian DePeel, Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
Katie Evans, Best Way Disposal
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rajagopal called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Ms. Balz stated that the awards ceremony this morning was great and several Policy Committee members attended and were recognized. Staff received many compliments after the ceremony.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Rajagopal asked for a motion for the September 20, 2018 minutes. Ms. Hurley moved the minutes be accepted as written. Ms. Magness seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

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B. Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Balz stated that she wanted to include the U.S. EPA Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study. Ms. Balz stated that this can be included as the last Policy item.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Mr. Rajagopal asked for a motion to approve the revenue report as presented. Ms. Magness moved approval; Mr. Turchiano seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. POLICY ITEMS

A. Additional Revenue Spending

Mr. Rajagopal stated that the 2019 revenue is predicted to exceed the proposed budget of \$2.9 million by \$200,000 - \$300,000. Ms. Balz stated that in Attachment C, the first section of bullets were the items that the Policy Committee approved in May.

Ms. Balz stated that at the last meeting, the Committee asked that staff look at spending the excess revenue that will be received this year and possibly next on some new projects. The bulleted items under "Recommended Additional Spending" are those items that staff pulled together that add to current programs (i.e. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program) or add more funds to the District's organics diversion grant opportunity).

Ms. Balz stated that when staff pulled together the recommendations, they considered what would have the most diversion but also, what would not take as much staff time because staff time is also a resource that needs to be considered. The bulleted items total \$300,000 which is in addition to what was submitted for the 2019 budget of \$2.9 million.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if the additional spending for the Household Hazardous Waste Program was for 2018 or 2019. Ms. Balz stated it was for 2019. Currently, there is \$145,000 budgeted.

Ms. Magness stated that she was glad that \$10,000 was added for schools but there are over 100 schools and doesn't think that \$10,000 is going to cover it. Ms. Magness stated she was curious why small businesses were also included.

Ms. Balz stated that the \$10,000 is not to pay for HHW collection; it is to develop a small quantity conditionally-exempt generator program that would be a supplement to the existing HHW program where they would possibly get a cost advantage. The program would still need to be developed but the District's contractor, Environmental Enterprises, Inc., already gives a forty percent discount to schools for collection of their hazardous waste. The District does not want to get into the business of paying for schools hazardous waste collection but felt something should be offered; not just to schools but to other small businesses and gave examples.

Ms. Balz stated that part of this would also be an education component and briefly explained what that would entail.

Mr. Rajagopal asked for a motion to pass the spending in Attachment C. Mr. DiPuccio moved to accept the staff recommendation. Ms. Hurley seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. DiPuccio asked Ms. Balz to discuss the last bulleted item which was Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) taking the lead to purchase cameras to monitor illegal dumping locations.

Ms. Balz stated that the District and HCPH currently have a contract to provide funds for their unit. They are going to use some of those funds to purchase cameras to be used in illegal dumping by the Environmental Enforcement Deputy. Mr. DiPuccio asked if the cameras would be used county-wide. Ms. Balz stated that she believed they would only be used in HCPH's jurisdiction.

Ms. Magness asked if this excluded the City of Cincinnati. Ms. Balz stated yes and that the City of Cincinnati has their own health department. Ms. Magness asked if the cameras would only be used outside of the City. Ms. Balz stated that she thought HCPH was planning but did not have that confirmed yet. A brief discussion ensued about what areas within the county were the HCPH's jurisdiction.

Ms. Hurley asked if the Committee could get a clarification of where the City of Cincinnati is left with that regard and whether officer thinks there still needs to be more adequate cameras in the City and whether the District needs to pay for them.

Ms. Balz stated that Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) does have cameras that are being used in the City. Ms. Magness stated that those cameras cannot get license plate numbers.

Deputy Peak stated that most of his material, as far as his investigations, has come from KCB trail cam photographs. Two of the cameras being purchased are license plate readers, albeit the ones KCB has provided to him have been able to get plates and have prosecuted every dumping from that.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the cameras, license plates, court dates, judges, etc.

Mr. Miller stated that the District's contracts with HCPH and City of Cincinnati Health Department to conduct inspections of the solid waste facilities, transfer stations, open dumping, etc. and the HCPH has money left over from their contract and that is what is being used to purchase the cameras and the City Health Department may have money left over so that might be an option to look into spending funds left over from the Health Department contracts to purchase cameras beyond what KCB has.

B. Public Member Representative Recommendation

Due to not having a quorum of statutory members present at the meeting, this item was tabled until the January 17, 2019 meeting.

C. Ohio EPA/Recycling Partnership Grant

Ms. Balz stated that this was an exciting opportunity. Ohio EPA has partnered with the Recycling Partnership which is a national non-profit that tries to improve recycling infrastructure and outreach.

A grant was put together targeted to Southwest Ohio and Northeast Ohio. The grant is really focused on reducing residential contamination at the curb. This grant has been opened up for solid waste districts to apply. The District intends to partner with some surrounding solid waste districts (Clermont, Butler and Montgomery) counties to put together a joint proposal and each select one or two communities.

Ms. Balz stated that in the grant application states that forty thousand households or less in the community are being targeted. This would be a strong partnership with Rumpke as well. The idea would be that Rumpke would likely, although not set in stone yet, hire extra employees to do cart tagging. They would go through the communities four times in a three month period and tag carts after visually inspecting the recyclables inside. The carts that are contaminated with non-recyclables would be tagged.

Ms. Balz stated that Rumpke estimates that thirty percent of households that they have been targeting would have recyclables in plastic bags which is a big contaminate.

Ms. Balz stated that a mailer would be sent prior letting folks know this was coming and then do the cart tagging four times hopefully with the idea that the cart tagging would decrease each time. A "Thank you for recycling" tag is put on the carts that have the correct recyclables.

Ms. Balz stated that the Recycling Partnership has done this in other cities and it has shown that it decreases contamination and increases capture; meaning it actually increases how much people are recycling. It decreases contamination of things other than what is being targeted so even if plastic bags are targeted, it could also decrease how many batteries are in the cart.

Ms. Balz stated that she would like the Policy Committee's approval to put together a joint application with the surrounding solid waste districts.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if this was in addition to what Rumpke is already doing. Ms. Balz stated yes and from what Rumpke has told her, it really depends on the driver and gave an example.

Mr. Rajagopal asked for a motion to approve this so staff can apply for the grant. Ms. Magness moved approval. Mr. DiPuccio seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

D. World Wildlife Fund Food Waste Warriors Curriculum Development

Ms. Balz stated that this was a very interesting partnership. Ms. Rivera and Ms. Mohring have been working on this and Ms. Mohring has been trying to get a school to do a waste audit in their lunch room all year. Schools would be interested in it and then they back out for whatever reason; it takes a lot of time for a school to do but Ms. Mohring and Ms. Rivera were able to do one a couple of weeks ago.

Ms. Balz stated that the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is trying to test the curriculum that they developed and this idea of doing regular waste audits at a school. WWF is targeting eight regions with one of them being Cincinnati because this is in conjunction with Kroger. A Request for Proposals was put out and the District submitted a proposal with Ms. Chin's blessing and now they are willing to partner with us.

Ms. Balz stated that the idea would be that Ms. Mohring would work with three schools and Ms. Rivera would implement the WWF curriculum which is very closely related to what staff is already doing in schools and gave an example.

Ms. Balz stated the grant would fund an intern for a few months who would actually be the person who would do the waste audits in conjunction with the schools so the school would need to participate. The grant would also fund a stipend for the three schools in hopes that it would make doing a waste audit more enticing for a school to participate.

Ms. Balz stated that staff also thinks that having the WWF name on it makes it more exciting for a school to be participating in a WWF initiative and not just the solid waste district initiative.

Ms. Balz stated the total amount the District would receive from the grant would be \$10,399.00, with the District adding Ms. Mohring's and Ms. Rivera's time and just under \$100 in supplies for the audit.

Mr. DiPuccio asked what the other seven regions were and stated that staff could get the information to him later.

A brief question/answer ensued.

Mr. Rajagopal asked for a motion. Ms. Hurley moved that the District seeks to continue to participate. Ms. Magness seconded; all were in favor and the motion was approved.

E. U.S. EPA Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study

Ms. Balz stated that this is an addition to the agenda because it is so last minute. The U.S. EPA has issued the District a special invitation to apply for an anaerobic digestion feasibility study grant which is a special grant with a really quick turn around with proposals due November 30, 2018. This is why it wasn't originally included on the agenda because she wasn't sure if staff could come up with a project in time.

Ms. Balz stated that it has been discussed internally, research has been done, and she met with the City of Hamilton at their wastewater treatment plant. They have recently conducted an anaerobic digestion feasibility study for their sewage and she also spoke with the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) yesterday about what feasibility studies they are doing.

Ms. Balz stated that the amount of the grant is not enough to do a full scale study; it is only \$25 to \$50 thousand dollars that is available but she would propose, since these federal funds are available and would not take any District funds, would be to submit a proposal for staff to do a feasibility study on the best management practices as far as odor control.

Ms. Balz stated that staff would ask that a consultant put together what are the best management technologies, what are the best siting strategies, if there are any buffers and suggestions that they have. Then staff would have a compilation of those in a nice package that could be given to any anaerobic digestion company that was interested in siting in this area saying that these are the things we want you to consider because the District has seen the concerns about odor.

Ms. Balz stated that it could also make it possible so one of those facilities may be more willing to accept food waste if they had best management practices to reduce odors because that is MSD's major concern with accepting food scraps is that they would be bringing in an additional odor source.

Mr. Turchiano asked if the City of Hamilton's anaerobic digester can handle additional volume. Ms. Balz stated that they have not built it yet. It is a feasibility study that will be available December 5, 2018. When she met with them they only had the initial results and they had 143 options to look at and thinks they are far away from actually implementing it but they could.

Mr. Turchiano asked if they would build it with that intent. Ms. Balz stated that it was within some of their options and have considered it as an additional revenue source.

Mr. Riddle stated that in Rumpke's studies in developing and building an anaerobic digester, they did their own with the University of Cincinnati, a study on the effectiveness and also the feasibility of putting an anaerobic digester in themselves and it is terribly expensive and stated that he could save the District twenty thousand dollars and tell you that there is going to be odors; there just will be odors. Just drive by the one that is in Columbus on a southeast wind day and there is predominately biosolids and they take whatever they can get from an organics standpoint and their odor control system, and as far as he knows, they do not make one that works consistently and effectively that will not impact the neighbors.

Mr. Riddle stated that he has been around it long enough to know that all of these mousetraps that are being developed are just a new way of generating another project and they have to come up with a way of doing a cost-effective way of controlling odors and gave examples.

Ms. Hurley asked Mr. Riddle if he did not think this sort of feasibility study makes much sense in the current environment. Mr. Riddle stated that somebody is going to build an anaerobic digester if it is a joint private partnership then the private partnership probably should be doing the study themselves to find out if it makes sense from a financial standpoint because they are not going to invest money into a project that is not going to make a profit. Public funds; you have got taxpayer dollars you could use; they do it all over the country. They spend the money and have a project that is maybe marginally effective or might meet some of the goals but not all of the goals.

Mr. Riddle stated that to spend money out of the District's funds it doesn't seem to him that if it related to odors that the District could probably spend it someplace better than to spend twenty thousand to come up with an understanding that it is going to have odors to it.

Ms. Balz stated that the project would not use District funds; this would be a U.S. EPA federal grant. Mr. Riddle asked what the request was for. Ms. Balz stated that it was just to apply for the grant funding.

Mr. Rajagopal stated that he receives a lot of emails with concerns about the odor at Rumpke. Rumpke does have the perfume type of spraying to subdue that odor smell and how much are they concerned about the little children if the odor, or anything, will be a long range factor to long range to the children. Mr. Riddle stated that he was not qualified to answer that but Mr. Miller could probably speak as to the studies that Rumpke has done on air and he could speak to some of the studies that have been done across the country. Mr. DiPuccio maybe more current than he, on those health risk studies around municipal solid waste landfills, not hazardous waste landfills or the old facilities back in the early 1970's, have demonstrated no more of a risk of disease around a municipal solid waste landfill than other industrial operations.

Mr. Riddle stated that there have been employees who have worked at Rumpke for 30 years and have never been diagnosed with anything related to the landfill. Remember, our landfills, current day landfills are fairly new and it has only been done since 1985 with subtitle D and the RCRA rules came into effect. We have landfills since we have had people but the ways landfills are built today according to the best available technology and the federal regulations, it is the state-of-the-art currently.

Mr. Riddle stated that to say that Rumpke uses a perfume is probably not correct. Rumpke uses an odor neutralizing agent made from plant extracts; it is essential oils that occur naturally and gave examples of what products they are in and stated that Rumpke does not use any sort of chemicals, petroleum, VOC's, etc.

Ms. Hurley asked Ms. Balz how the feasibility study relates to the previous discussion. Ms. Balz stated that U.S. EPA wants to see more anaerobic digestion facilities and this is why they are asking the District look into this. U.S. EPA knows that this area does not have any food waste composting or anaerobic digestion infrastructure. U.S. EPA specifically invited the District because they want to see that happen in our area. They also have extra funds that they need to disburse this year.

Ms. Hurley stated that Ms. Balz's hypothesis is that if the District did something like this, it would be there as a "carrot" for someone coming in to this area. Ms. Balz stated that it would just be a tool for them to use. These funds are not big enough for staff to do a whole financial feasibility study. As an example, the City of Hamilton's study was over \$150,000 so this is not enough money for the District to do a full scale study on trying to figure out how to get anaerobic digestion here.

Ms. Magness stated that the other barrier is finding an appropriate location. Having siting criteria would help identify locations if a company were interested because approval would be more likely with a site.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that on the issues of odors; when one smells something, it doesn't necessarily mean that there is a health impact, often times it winds up being a nuisance issue which he is not saying that is not important but when he smells an odor someplace, obviously, the first thing one thinks about is ones health impact.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that on anaerobic digestion, a couple of years ago SCS Engineers did a study in Michigan which was a publically owned landfill and they were looking at if they should put in an anaerobic digester and they actually already had a gas recovery system so they had nothing to lose. They did not even know if they had the material there to do it so SCS approached them and asked if there was even the appropriate kind of material you need to feed an anaerobic digester, how much is there, what size might they be looking at, where would it potentially come from, etc.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that to him, that would be more of an enticement for a private company to come in, in terms of saying this sort of is a market study but you do not carry it through the whole feasibility end of it; is there even enough material to access.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he doesn't think there is anything new that he has seen in terms of odor control or best management practices and there have been a lot of anaerobic digesters around and the ones that started failed, mostly on the financial side; some odor related issues because they did not properly manage it.

A discussion ensued on the history of anaerobic digestion and food waste collection infrastructure.

Mr. Riddle stated that an anaerobic digester can be built out by Little Miami Wastewater Plant so it is not being transported to Gest Street or to Rumpke. But how does one get food waste from Colerain to Little Miami cost effectively?

Further discussion ensued about the specifics of the infrastructure.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he probably just didn't make it any clearer. Ms. Balz stated that it is up to the Policy Committee and if the Committee wants staff to apply for this, we will and if you do not then this was perfectly fine; we have enough projects going on.

Mr. Rajagopal stated that with a feasible study, one will gain more knowledge and it can be used as a stepping stone because one needs to start somewhere to understand how one can proceed; the grant is already available.

Mr. Riddle asked if there was a match to that should the Committee decide to accept these funds. Ms. Balz stated that this grant does not require a match and with any federal grant, it is an extensive application and extensive reporting in which she has already spoke with Mr. Khodadad about this due to federal requirements as far as the funds are tracked and documented.

Ms. Magness moved that staff apply for the grant and stated that it was a value to get more information on siting. Mr. Rajagopal seconded. Mr. DiPuccio abstained and Ms. Hurley abstained stating that she did not feel like she knew enough to have an intelligent decision. Mr. Turchiano stated that he was concerned and asked if staff was sure that nothing was going to be required down the line because this was done by taking their money and there are no strings attached.

Ms. Balz stated that there is a grant agreement that the Prosecutor's Office would review before it was signed by the County. Mr. Turchiano stated that as long as there were absolutely no strings attached, no other requirements, or anything else that is going to affect the financial status of this County then sure.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that typically, with U.S. EPA grants, first of all, they are grants; not loans. Secondly, there are requirements. The requirements are that one needs to spend the money on what you say you are going to spend it on, there is usually a time-line they want one to spend it in, and a time-line in which the project needs to get done and reported back.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that he hears what Mr. Turchiano's concern is and it is a good question; are we signing up for more than what we think we are signing up for and generally, that is not the case.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the county approval process which includes the Prosecutor's Office reviewing the grant agreement.

Ms. Magness stated that the Plan includes that we are lacking infrastructure for organics.

Ms. Hurley stated that this is not the market study that she thought was much more, she understands what Mr. DiPuccio is saying and that seemed to address that a little bit more. Ms. Hurley stated that she was not against this and is not voting no, she just feels ambivalent.

Ms. Magness asked if the market component was a possibility. Ms. Balz stated yes and stated that staff could just see what we could get for that small amount of money.

Mr. Turchiano stated that if staff could assess if there is enough demand, is there a place, and start seeking out potential, true areas where this could be implemented; when and if someone wants to come in a do it, that makes more sense to identify and seek out. Odor issues – everything when it comes to garbage smells, to make it a perfect utopia where nothing smells and everything is perfect is not realistic.

Mr. Turchiano stated that if this is something this Policy Committee really wants to focus on, try and get the base foundation as to where and if the volume is there and then take it from there. Ms. Magness stated that the volume is there and the waste audits are proof.

The Committee further discussed the volume issue.

Mr. Rajagopal stated that this study is more like an analysis. Ms. Balz stated that U.S. EPA left it very vague as far as what staff felt like the District needed and she spoke with the woman from U.S. EPA and she indicated that this grant would be available in the future if staff did not want to apply for this cycle. Ms. Balz stated that November 30th was the deadline for this cycle and the next meeting would be too late.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if any of the grant money could be used to be used to reimburse for staff time. Ms. Balz stated that from her first and second reading of it, she does not think so and that U.S. EPA has different definitions of ways matches can be made and staff time is one of those ways but a match is not required.

Mr. Turchiano stated that if the focus was changed away from odors and go with the infrastructure, this makes a lot more sense and feels there is a lot more value for a company to come in and look at it and see that there is a feasibility study of where we can do this and we know that the volume is there so there is some justification so you can move forward versus an odor study.

Ms. Hurley asked if the motion could be restated in a way that would leave some ambiguity. We support the staff in exploring the possibility of submitting this grant if they can pull together everything by November 30th to include some of the market concerns and moving away from the odor concerns. That may or may not be possible given the time frame but we would support that effort and stated that she could vote for that because it seems a little more worthwhile.

Mr. Rajagopal asked Ms. Hurley if she wanted to add this stipulation. If she added the stipulation do we have a vote? Mr. Riddle asked if it would be more clean to withdrawl the second? Ms. Hurley stated that there was a motion on the floor. Mr. Rajagopal stated that the discussion stays and that he is calling for the motion again. Ms. Hurley asked what was the motion that was being voted on was. Mr. Rajagopal stated the feasibility study and the stipulation that Ms. Hurley mentioned. Ms. Hurley stated that it was an amended motion. Mr. Turchiano stated that the first motion has to be wiped and go away.

Ms. Magness stated that all she said on the first one was that she approved to apply for the grant. Mr. Turchiano stated that it's changed because Ms. Balz originally was talking about a grant that would be geared towards odor.

Ms. Magness asked if Mr. Turchiano wanted to amend it where it would be focusing on location and feasibility. Mr. Turchiano stated yes.

Mr. Rajagopal then asked Ms. Hurley if she would be amending that. Ms. Hurley stated that the Committee is amending the original to include a little bit wider scope in what this feasibility study could include market concerns, siting, demand to focus on infrastructure instead of odor and the Committee is leaving it up to staff to see what is possible by November 30th and maybe staff will be applying in the next round.

Ms. Hurley stated that someone needed to second the amended motion. Mr. Rajagopal stated that he amended the second one. Mr. Turchiano stated that he also amended it and now the Committee was up for a vote. Mr. Rajagopal stated that all in favor to continue with the amendment. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Mr. DiPuccio abstained.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Presentation on the 2018 Residential Wasted Food Challenge

Ms. Balz stated that the U.S. EPA developed a wasted food challenge with the point being to encourage residents to reduce their wasted food by measuring how much food waste they are creating. Ms. Lohmann tested this idea by conducting a food study in order to receive more general public interest.

Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Lohmann had a very ingenious idea of working with a community in Oak Hills High School's PTO. Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Lohmann was going to tell everyone a little about how the study was set up and what was learned.

Ms. Lohmann stated that as a refresher, 21% of what goes into the landfill in the United States is food waste/wasted food and prevention is the number one thing that we can do. The District is really focused on getting food out of the landfill and into people's stomachs. Ms. Lohmann discussed the hierarchy of prevention, then feeding people, recovery, feeding animals, etc.

Ms. Lohmann stated that we are always trying to change behaviors; we want people to recycle, reduce, reuse . So this study, which Ms. Lohmann borrowed heavily from, Food Too Good To Waste, which is a federal government

challenge as well as the National Resource Defense Council's studies in Oregon state in the Department of Environmental Quality.

Ms. Lohmann explained how the study was set up, number of participants, stipend amounts, etc. and gave highlights on what was the most wasted food/drink being bread, potatoes, cereal milk, and coffee.

Ms. Lohmann stated that in the post survey, participants mentioned how they would help other residents learn about wasting less food would be through building awareness and education. Participants also learned from doing this study that they need to meal plan, create shopping lists, use tip sheets that were provided, portioning awareness, and planning and storage.

Ms. Lohmann stated that 74% that completed the study agreed or somewhat agreed that they should reduce the amount of food they throw away. Nationally, 76% of us think we do not waste food.

Ms. Lohmann stated that the surveys were sent both three months and six months out to see if it had a lasting effect. In the three month survey, 87% said they agree the study did change the way they think about and value food. 97% felt their family had reduced wasted food in their homes by either a little or about half. Six months out about 72% agreed or somewhat agreed that measuring what they were wasting has helped them to reduce waste. 86% agree or somewhat agree the study was a valuable lesson and 84% are still using some of the tips on reducing wasted food.

Ms. Lohmann stated that six months out, participants agreed and somewhat agreed that measuring was still affecting the way that they value food and it was a valuable lesson.

Ms. Lohmann showed and passed out some of the items that were given to the participants in the study. Ms. Lohmann stated that 26 people changed the way they value food and it was a good study but it also took a lot of staff time to complete.

Ms. Lohmann complimented Ms. Schumacher with her assistance in the food study.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

B. Environmental Enforcement Program Update

Ms. Balz stated that she has put together a graph as included in Attachment D that shows complaints received and complaints investigated. As shown in the graph, there was a big spike in July which was when the press conference was held.

Ms. Balz stated that as the graph shows, the complaints have died down but the small increase shown is due to staff doing some outreach on social media to communities. Currently, staff is working on a palm card for Deputy Peak to hand out at roll call meetings and different police departments and introduce himself and the program. The palm card includes ORC codes and violations related to illegal dumping.

Ms. Balz stated that Montgomery County did the same thing which has helped spread the word about the program and possibly get a few more news stories about the program.

C. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Program

Ms. Balz stated that today is the last day for the 2018 Household Hazardous Waste drop-off program. The program will re-open on March 21, 2019 and run through October 24, 2019. The program will be open Thursdays from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

D. Organics Diversion Grant Update

Ms. Balz stated the District's Organics Diversion Grant is out and is open to communities, non-profits, schools, and businesses with the hope to fund innovative organics diversion, reduction, and rescue projects. Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Mohring has done a great job in putting it together.

Ms. Balz stated that there will be an informational meeting December 12, 2018 from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Applications are due February 1, 2019 with the grant cycle beginning in June.

E. 3rd Quarter Performance Measures

Ms. Balz stated that this was included as Attachment E. Ms. Balz stated that she wanted to point out that the Container Loan Program had 78 events use our containers reaching almost 300,000 residents. Ms. Balz stated that the Save the Food campaign wrapped up in the third quarter and pointed out that the number of exposures was almost a million people which is quite impressive.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Rajagopal stated that he would like to see a presentation on the Rumpke expansion at a future meeting and briefly discussed Colerain Townships' concern with the proposed new landfill height. Mr. Rajagopal asked Mr. Riddle if he would like to add anything. Mr. Riddle stated that he was not in a position to and stated that the landfill was an asset to the community in general and gave examples.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the methane gas at Rumpke.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Rajagopal presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Turchiano for his service on the Committee which read:

Tom Turchiano, for his service to the Policy Committee as a Public Member from 2014 – 2018 and your commitment to the environment and the best interests of Hamilton County.

The audience applauded Mr. Turchiano.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services located at 250 William Howard Taft Road - First Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Turchiano moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Magness seconded; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.