

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

**DATE:** March 21, 2019

**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  
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative, Vice Chair  
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative  
Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair  
Sydney Sauer, Student Representative

**Staff**

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager  
Abbey Cherry, Public Relations Specialist  
Brad Johnson, Director  
Susan Jorgensen, Intern  
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager  
Jenny Lohmann, Program Specialist  
Brad Miller, Assistant Director  
Cher Mohring, Program Specialist  
Angela Rivera, Outreach Specialist  
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk  
Mary Sticklen, Business Specialist

**Others in Attendance**

Dean Ferrier, Rumpke  
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

**ABSENT:** **Policy Committee Members**

Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative  
Larry Riddle, Rumpke

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Portune called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mr. Portune welcomed Mr. Gedert as the new Public Member to the Policy Committee. Mr. Gedert thanked the Committee for nominating and electing him to the Committee and briefly talked about his experience in the solid waste field.

Mr. Portune spoke of the history of solid waste managers and stated that a great team has been formed and that the Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District is very highly regarded around the state and gave examples.

Mr. Portune discussed opportunities for the District to partner with other organizations for different initiatives and stated that the grants that will be approved today are an important step forward in that field but he would hope that with the District's budget exceeding projections, if this was found to be the case for the coming year,

some things that were not able to be addressed when the budget was approved could be. Mr. Portune stated that in the field of organics and food waste reduction and diversion, there were some real opportunities that may want to be considered as we move forward at our next meeting or meetings thereafter along with some other longstanding issues that have been before the Committee.

Mr. Portune stated that there were a few new employees that Ms. Balz wanted to introduce. Ms. Balz stated that the Recycling and Solid Waste District was part of the Department of Environmental Services so the Director of Environmental Services is over the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency as well. Ms. Balz stated that she was happy to introduce Brad Johnson as the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services new Director. Ms. Balz stated that he came from Hamilton County Public Health which is upstairs, managing the storm water section and has been with us for two weeks now and we were happy to have him.

Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Balz for the introduction and stated that he has worked with about half of the employees at Environmental Services and those who know him know that he does have a background in solid waste. Mr. Johnson stated that he spent 12 years at Hamilton County Public Health, with the first five years working in the Waste Management Division and briefly discussed his duties as they pertain to solid waste/recycling.

Mr. Johnson stated that there is a fabulous staff here and it goes across the board in terms of the experience, the new employees, the attitude and the culture of the environment here. It has been an absolute pleasure in just the first two weeks.

Mr. Ingram complimented Mr. Johnson and stated that this was a testament to the Hamilton County Public Health's Work Force Development Program and Mr. Johnson comes through all the training that Hamilton County Public Health does.

Ms. Balz introduced Abbey Cherry as the new Public Relations Specialist for the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services who has been with the department for one week now. Ms. Cherry will be handling all of the social media, helping with some campaigns, etc. and is also quite the video expert.

Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Cherry. Ms. Cherry stated that she was glad to be here. Mr. Portune spoke of the importance of communication and social media.

Ms. Balz introduced Susan Jorgensen as the new Solid Waste Intern and stated that she has helped out with the District's World Wildlife Fund Project (school waste audits) and helping the staff around the office.

Mr. Portune welcomed Ms. Jorgensen. Ms. Jorgensen stated that it has been a wonderful experience so far.

**2. CLERK'S REPORT**

**A. Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Portune asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any corrections, additions or other alterations to what has been drafted and circulated. Mr. Ingram stated that on Page 5, second paragraph from the bottom, there needed to be a change as follows:

*Mr. Miller stated that there were multiple facilities in this area. Mr. Ingram stated that what he thinks Mr. Miller is saying and not to make light of any concern because obviously there is citizen concern and their concerns are very genuine, he would just say to Mr. Miller that place does not matter.*

Mr. Ingram stated that the “not” needs to be struck out. Mr. Portune stated that a motion needs to be made to amend the minutes to reflect the deletion of the word “not” on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line in the second to last paragraph on Page 5. Mr. Ingram moved; Ms. Hurley seconded. All were in favor of the amendment and the motion was approved.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hurley moved; Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**B. Additions to the Agenda**

Ms. Balz stated that staff just found out that the District received the Ohio EPA Recycling Partnership Grant. Ms. Balz stated that the Recycling Partnership is a national non-profit who works to improve residential recycling.

Ms. Balz stated that the grant is a contamination grant to try and reduce contamination and cart tagging in 20,000 households in the City of Cincinnati. Staff will be working with Ms. Magness on this project in trying to reduce contamination which is really important to have quality recyclables.

Mr. Portune stated that this is great and that the focus is on the City of Cincinnati and hopes as this comes together thought will be given to in what way can the District expand the lessons learned to other communities in Hamilton County that have curbside recycling programs.

Mr. Portune stated that as we know, bus stops are magnets for litter and a partnership was attempted to be formed with SORTA and the City. The partnership would have enabled benches and/or shelters that had recycling containers attached to them as a means of reducing litter but also to help to educate people on recycling knowing that initially, there would be a lot of contamination but over time, it would work to help educate people as well. The City had no interest in pursuing that and the initiative was unable to be brought forward which would have saved the City a half a million dollars.

Mr. Portune stated that at the last County Transportation Improvement District meeting where SORTA is represented as is the City of Cincinnati, SORTA was talking about through their interim director Darryl Haley to introduce more capital products, meaning benches, at their bus stops throughout the City. Mr. Portune stated that he raised this issue of what was attempted to be done about a decade ago if there would be any interest, first by SORTA to consider that and the City’s representative was present and asked if there were any immediate objections and the City’s representative stated that it was a new council and that maybe there is an interest in revisiting that. Ms. Magness stated that she thought the advertising on the containers was the barrier.

Mr. Gedert stated that he has seen these types of ad placement containers in other cities and the objection is always paid advertising. One way that cities have approved it is to restrict it to non-profit agencies and agencies of the city; of course it has to be paid advertising because that is how the money flow is made and it is not free but the advertising can be contracted out so the only advertising arranged is public service ads; non-profits and city oriented agencies. A lot of cities are doing this and that is a way around the thorny issue.

Ms. Magness stated that the City does not have them around all bus stops but the City is doing a pilot in downtown Cincinnati right now where 20 recycling containers were placed in high traffic areas such as Fountain Square, between there and the Convention Center. Ms. Magness stated that pairing was being done, which is placing the recycling container with the garbage container. Preliminarily, the City is having great results and really good feedback.

Mr. Portune stated that he was looking forward to hearing how staff has progressed in putting together the Recycling Partnership program and asked Ms. Balz if a report could be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Balz stated that staff could let the Committee know what the plan will be although staff would not have done anything with it yet.

Mr. DiPuccio asked if the grant cycle was one or two years. Ms. Balz stated that it was a year.

**3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS**

Ms. Balz stated that included as Attachment B was two revenue comparison sheets. One was January, 2019 revenue compared with January, 2018 and the second was the full year of revenue from 2018, which was not available at the January meeting, compared to the full year from 2017.

Ms. Balz stated the full year of revenue from 2018 was up about \$327,000 or 11 percent compared to 2017. There is only one month for 2019, but it is up slightly, about 15,000 or six percent.

Mr. Ingram stated that revenue was up almost ten percent already over last year and revenue was up last year finishing about \$300,000 more than was anticipated in 2018 over 2017, so it is a good problem to have.

Mr. Portune stated that with these projections, given the policy that was adopted about how much money will be held in reserve each year, any idea where this will put the District relative to the policy over or on track, etc.

Mr. Khodadad stated that currently the District is at a \$3.5 million carry-over balance. The policy is to keep eight months' worth of operating expenses, which if at \$3 million, the eight months would be \$2 million leaving \$1.5 million above the eight month amount.

Mr. Khodadad stated that in 2019, projected revenue was \$3 million and \$3.3 million was budgeted so \$300,000 of the \$1.5 million carry-over is being spent down.

Mr. Portune stated that there is so much other stuff that we can do so the question that comes before us is going to be at what rate do we want to consider spending down some of that knowing that at the end of the day, even if the overage is spent, we still have an eight month reserve so it is not as if all the reserves are being spent down?

Mr. Portune suggested to staff to brainstorm some ideas of things that have been put on hold or new things. Mr. Portune suggested that Committee members think of one or two items.

Mr. Portune stated that he is not saying a specific project but conceptually, what areas would staff and the Committee like to see a more robust effort and see how those two can be married together at an upcoming meeting and try to focus on doing some additional things that would help solve the problem of having too much money?

Mr. Ingram stated that he always looks to the staff, which is an excellent staff, to those things that have been done in the past are fine to put back on the table perhaps but just look at those programs and the technology that is rapidly coming in front of us every day that will actually help align the District to get to the vision and gave examples.

Mr. Portune entertained a motion to approve the revenue report as presented. Ms. Magness moved approval; Mr. Ingram seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**4. POLICY ITEMS**

**A. Organics Diversion Grant Recommendations**

Ms. Balz stated that staff is recommending funding \$23,044.37 in grant requests that were received. Attachment C outlines the requests recommended and requests not recommended for funding.

Ms. Balz stated that although the Committee voted several years ago to only approve grants of \$15,000 or more and there is only one with a \$15,000 request, she was asking all of the grants be approved as a package.

Ms. Balz stated that Ms. Mohring has done an excellent job with administrating the grant and pulling it together thus far and she will be giving everyone a brief overview of the applications.

Ms. Hurley asked how many applicants there were. Michelle stated that there were seven and five were being recommended for funding.

Ms. Hurley stated that this was surprising. Ms. Balz stated that staff did not know what to expect as an organics only grant has never been done before this, but this is typical to what staff receives when a District Priority Grant is done.

Ms. Mohring stated that this was the first time any sort of match has been required so that may have had something to do with it as well.

Mr. Ingram asked how much the match was. Ms. Mohring stated that for non-profits, schools, and communities a 25 percent match was required and 100 percent for, for-profit businesses. Ms. Sauer stated that the barrier for her school was the match and ended up not applying. Ms. Mohring stated that this was good to know.

Mr. Ingram stated that a 25 percent match seemed a little high and 10 percent might have been a good place to start especially for schools. Ms. Mohring stated that half of the grants being recommended for approval are going to schools.

Mr. Portune stated that anybody would take this as being critical, but what he is raising is an idea of another round or the next round of grants based upon the lessons learned reducing the match may want to be considered.

Ms. Magness asked since there was \$100,000 budgeted and approximately \$70,000 left, if another round was being considered? Ms. Balz stated that originally \$50,000 was budgeted and last fall, when staff brainstormed on adding more funds to a program, the organics grant was chosen as adding \$50,000.

Ms. Balz stated that staff was hoping to receive anaerobic digestion projects or something big and that is why staff put such a big pocket in this.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that there was a pretty large turnout at the question and answer session which shows a good job was done in getting the information out and he thinks there was a lot of interest.

Ms. Magness stated that this also shows that there are not a lot of businesses who are interested in waste reduction or at least, organics.

Mr. Portune asked if economic aspect, aside from the environmental benefit, was discussed during the question and answer session or the information that was put out there. Ms. Mohring stated that one of the things that staff

really looked at and stressed about the grant was for the projects to be sustainable and hopefully save them money in the long run.

Ms. Mohring stated that staff felt like a 25 percent match would allow recipients to save more money than they were spending. We really wanted them to be cost effective and felt like this would be a good way to encourage that.

Mr. Portune asked if staff was able to quantify, for example, from a cost benefit ratio, how doing some things would save them money? Ms. Mohring stated that reducing their waste hauling costs would save them money and gave examples.

Ms. Hurley asked if there were lots of schools and businesses that attended the question and answer session that did not end up applying. Ms. Balz stated that there were mostly non-profits. Ms. Hurley stated that as we talk about a second round, is there some way, before this is done, of making sure by checking in with some representative sample of the people that didn't apply to find out what the obstacle was for not applying; the match, time frame, etc. because, at least whoever came to the meeting was thinking along the right lines.

Ms. Mohring stated that this was a good idea.

Ms. Magness stated that with a 25 percent match, she has more confidence that these programs are going to be loved and last more than a year whereas sometimes grants awarded without that match, they would dissolve the next year. Ms. Magness suggested for applicants to be able to count volunteer time as some sort of in-kind contribution and this might allow some of the non-profits or those coming up with the match in cash, be able to apply.

Ms. Magness stated that perhaps not just focusing on organics, but also public recycling and some other areas that received a lot of applications in the past. When there was not a match, she recalls having long discussions on getting the grant recipients to take ownership and believes this is why staff required a match.

Mr. DiPuccio suggested that with school districts, staff would allow them to apply for up to \$2,500 without a match but feels it will just be a trial and error basis.

Mr. Portune stated that he was hearing a consensus in having staff develop a second round of grants and for staff to develop some suggested options for the Committee to consider and approve.

Mr. Hurley stated that with Ms. Cherry being new, this would be an interesting challenge that as the story is told about what organizations received these grants feels other schools may see and maybe will prompt them to apply. Ms. Hurley stated that she feels the focus on organics is good, because it is a new focus for many people. It may tease other folks to get involved.

Mr. Portune stated that outside of organics and diversion, he feels there is definitely an interest from the Committee to move forward with considering some other subject matter areas where the District may want to invest some of the excess reserve money and make decisions on that sometime this year and would respectfully ask the members of the Policy Committee to give some thought to other subject matter to consider.

Ms. Mohring summarized each grant application and a question and answer session followed.

Mr. Ingram moved to approve as presented; Mr. DiPuccio seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Results of 2018 Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot**

Ms. Balz briefly summarized the food waste pilot that was done with the Civic Garden Center stating that last September, the District, Civic Garden Center, and GoZero investigated what it would be like to have a residential food waste drop-off which the District has never done.

Ms. Balz stated that the pilot was done with an initial group of 36 households. The pilot was on a certain day of the week when a group of residents were already coming to the Civic Garden Center. There was a three hour window in which residents could deposit their food scraps and there was a Civic Garden Center volunteer to “man” the containers to ensure residents knew what they were supposed to be composting.

Ms. Balz stated that after about four weeks, it was observed that there was room for everyone that was on the waiting list so they were invited to participate because not everybody was coming every week which ended up being 54 households. Ms. Balz stated that all interested participants received a 5-gallon bucket with a special sealed lid for easy transport.

Ms. Balz stated that a lot was learned and that there was a lot of interest for the small amount of advertising that was done. About 2,000 pounds of material was collected in those four months. The average household brought 10 pounds every week.

Ms. Balz stated that these participants were not paying for the service, the District was, so there may be a different participation rate when the resident was paying, but found that of the 54 signed up, only 29 ended up dropping something off at any point during the pilot.

Ms. Balz stated that a survey was done after the pilot and found that one of the biggest barriers was the limited time of three hours which ended at six o'clock, which wasn't conducive to some residents.

Ms. Balz stated that the residents felt that they knew what was compostable and the communication was good.

Ms. Balz stated that the pilot ended on December 31, 2018 and GoZero was trying to communicate with participants and get them to sign up in January during December so not that many people signed up and it was not enough to continue the program.

Ms. Balz stated that GoZero did, after this pilot, partner with a community in Madisonville so there is a subscription food waste drop-off service.

**B. Student Representative Recruiting**

Ms. Balz stated that staff is currently recruiting for a student representative to replace Ms. Sauer which is done every year. A press release was sent, information was in the teacher newsletter, staff reached out to high school contacts, and information and an application is on the District's website.

Ms. Balz stated that when this came up last year, there was some discussion from the Committee on how the Committee could help in recruiting so this item was added to the agenda to see if there was any further interest or ideas for staff.

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Sauer how she was made aware of the student representative position and asked if there is anything that could be improved upon? Ms. Sauer stated that she feels that she got lucky because she has a

teacher that is really into everything environmental and knew she was interested in that as well and spoke with her about it. Ms. Sauer stated that she is not sure if it was not for this teacher and the relationship, she would have found out about the position. The information was not in the school's announcements.

Ms. Sauer stated that she did not know how the information got to her teacher but if there is a way to circulate it more in schools, it would definitely be a bonus. Ms. Sauer suggested using social media as a way to communicate.

Ms. Sauer stated that she is not sure what effort was made last year but maybe trying to focus more on the City of Cincinnati, specifically because she feels like a lot of the initiatives here are in the City and not in the suburban areas. Ms. Sauer stated that she feels it would be good to have a student representative from a school in which their school would be impacted more by these policies that are being made, etc. or someone from a lower income or inner-city community who could really bring that back to where they are because they might not have as many resources.

Mr. Portune asked Ms. Cherry what her thoughts were. Ms. Cherry stated that she was new to the game and was not aware of what efforts were made last year but can say that social media is a great avenue that can be utilized as far as contacts at the school and having that one on one relationship. Ms. Cherry stated that a catered ad campaign, specifically around targeting these schools, could certainly be done.

Ms. Magness stated that she liked the idea of recruiting students from lower income communities and suggested offering some sort of stipend of maybe \$500 due to transportation issues, etc. which may increase the applications and interest.

Mr. Ingram asked Ms. Sauer if that would be helpful? Ms. Sauer stated yes or maybe credit for volunteer hours may help.

Mr. Ingram suggested engaging the student government and ask them to nominate and gave an example.

Ms. Hurley asked if there was some sort of platform where student leaders come together, which would fit into Mr. Portune's idea? Mr. Portune stated that there was a Youth in Government Program which may be something that could be tapped into.

Mr. Gedert suggested tapping into the science teachers and asked if there was a leadership system among the science teachers in high schools? Ms. Magness suggested the Science Education Council of Ohio teachers would be the ones that would pass the information on to the students.

Mr. Portune stated that he thought there were a number of ideas on how to broaden the reach in a way that could prove more successful in recruiting applications for student representatives. What he would like to see, whatever the process, is that the ability to have a two way conversation with the schools that are participating.

Mr. Portune stated that what he would like to see is to increase the number of applicants or a way a broad or diverse group to apply and then, at the same time, the Committee has the ability to engage on a broader scale than happening today with the youth.

Mr. Ingram stated that it is specified that the student representative has to be a high school student. Ms. Balz stated that staff was talking about that and wondering if a college student would also be interested and stated that she would look into it.

Mr. Hurley stated that she thought Mr. Portune's vision might be an awful lot of expectation around this student representative and wonders if trying to better involve the youth of Hamilton County in these kind of issues if it might not be better for the Committee to think of having some kind of youth assembly or to have some kind of day where the Committee invites youth around the County to come because it is focusing on recycling and to bring their concerns. Maybe out of that, a youth representative would come forward. But it seems to her that it would be putting a lot on a high school student to try and do all of this representing and communicating back.

Mr. Portune requested that staff help the Committee and come back with some suggestions at the next meeting.

Ms. Balz stated that the applications are due May 3 which is before the next meeting, but staff will take into consideration everything discussed.

Ms. Balz stated that going on what Ms. Hurley was mentioning about inviting students to an event, Ms. Rivera has been developing more high school field trip programs and one of the ideas she had was to invite high school government classes to observe a Policy Committee meeting as a field trip.

Mr. Portune stated that if Ms. Rivera was meeting in schools in the government classes that there may be members of the Committee that would be willing to go there with you and stated that he would be willing.

Ms. Magness asked for the press release that was sent. Ms. Balz stated she would send the release to all members.

**C. 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Performance Measures**

Ms. Balz gave a brief overview of the 2018 Performance Measures as included as Attachment D. Ms. Balz stated that she did want to point out just how many people were reached. There were over 243,000 unique visitors to the District's website, over 90,000 views of the compost blog, 437 attendees at adult seminars, almost 11,000 teachers and students educated through the school programs.

Ms. Magness stated that referring to the adult education, years ago, the goal was to reach the family through the students, but in order to get recycling in the home, the parent needs to be reached through the student. But now, there is opportunity through new technology to get right to the parent and would like more adult programming with almost the same numbers as the youth because this is where the real change happens.

A brief discussion ensued regarding adult education.

**D. Environmental Enforcement Program Update**

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment F is an overview, in chart form, of 2018 since the inception of the program in April. There is a peak in July which is when the press conference was held which increased the number of complaints and investigations.

Ms. Balz stated that staff is trying to promote the program more, which explains the recent peak.

Mr. Ingram asked how many have been cleaned up and how many are still pending court? Mr. Peak stated that he did not know if it was the subpoena issue from court, but 85 percent of his work is in the City. Mr. Peak explained the subpoena process and stated that if he was doing all of the legwork on the case, he would like to be in court and know what the judges recommendations are, fines, etc. and is not being notified.

Mr. Peak stated that this information has been passed on through the Executive Director, Jonathan Adey with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to the Mayor.

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Mr. Ingram asked since most are in the City, if the City Solicitor has to go to court to take that case or was that handled through the Prosecutor's office? Mr. Portune stated that it was the level of the offence. Hamilton County prosecutors handle felony-level offences.

Mr. Peak stated that if it is not a tire case it is a misdemeanor, M-2 and M-3. They have a City Solicitor assigned to the housing docket, David Laing, who is involved with quite a few things Mr. Peak has done and he and Mr. Laing have been in contact, email regularly, saw him two days ago, etc.

Mr. Peak stated that he did not know if it was a different way or what. Mr. Portune asked if it was a misdemeanor and takes place in the City, it is the City Solicitor's Office that has the Prosecuting Attorney and if it is in the County, it is the County Prosecutor's Office. All felonies are handled by the Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Magness stated that they don't really know the impact on the community, what the cost is, health impacts are and they might still perceive it as a low level, who cares kind of deal.

Mr. Peak stated that this was his concern because when he writes a ticket for speeding or moving violation, he is being subpoenaed on that first appearance and 95 percent of the time, a continuance is granted.

Mr. Peak stated that he spoke to Mr. Laing about this stating that he is already on the clock so he could show up and ask him what his opinion was regarding the case. Mr. Laing told Mr. Peak that 90 percent of the time it is plead and that is OK, but part of the reporting requirements to the District is number of court appearances, number of resolutions, fines, etc.

Mr. Peak stated that it would be nice to know so he could be there every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the Housing Court with Judge Bouchard.

Further discussion ensued and Mr. Portune stated that a meeting needs to be convened with the Solicitor's Office, Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Office, and get the input from the courthouse administration and everyone needs to take this seriously.

Mr. Portune stated that it may start with the Solicitor and Prosecutor though because they are the ones that prepare the cases, deciding who needs to be there and when, who will be subpoenaed, etc.

Mr. Portune stated that everyone needs to understand what it is about these cases that is resulting in the evidence not being where it needs to be, when it needs to be, and the custodian of the evidence, being Mr. Peak, not being able to be there to attest to it. It is very important that Mr. Peak is present at every hearing, with evidence in hand, so that the prosecution can take place, so that people are not avoiding their responsibilities either through dismissals that occur because he is not there or simply there is no teeth in the process, etc. and that this was not the intent of the program.

Mr. Peak gave an example of what has happened in the past. Mr. Portune stated that there is no teeth and gave an example.

Mr. Portune stated that it needs to be found out whom on the Solicitor's end and Prosecutor's end and stated that he would start with Ms. Chin and get the attorney's prosecuting these cases and Mr. Peak together to talk over what the problem is and what they are willing to do in order to rectify the problem which is where it begins.

Mr. Peak stated that the issue with the prosecution on the Hamilton County side is that the municipal prosecutors are rotated every three to four months so at least on the County side, on anything he would have in the townships,

that may rotate every three to four months versus Mr. Laing being the Solicitor assigned to him for everything he does in the City.

Mr. Ingram stated that any fines collected should be coming back to the District so the Presiding Judge understands this.

Mr. Portune stated that the Committee does not need to take action on any of these items but they were there for informational purposes only.

Mr. Johnson stated that for the past seven years, he has been dealing with the function of prosecutions regarding the County Public Health issues and stated that he will reach out to Ms. Chin.

Mr. Johnson stated that it sounded like the problem was more with the City Solicitor at this point. Mr. Peak stated that it could be due to the notification process and that he did not know how they notify us, etc. and stated that he has spoken to Ms. Chin about it.

Mr. Portune stated to Mr. Johnson just as there is a dedicated Solicitor to this, there needs to be a dedicated Prosecutor as well. Mr. Portune stated that Mr. Ingram has shared with him that Mr. Johnson understood this process very well and whatever he could do in getting their attention on this and let's put this on the agenda for a follow-up at the May meeting.

**E. Programs Trends, Household Hazardous Waste, And Yard Trimmings Drop-Off's Opening**

These items were accepted as written.

**6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- OEPA Partnership Grant Update – What the District is planning
- Recommendations for program ideas to spend down carry-over balance
- Second round of grant ideas (outside of organics)
- Notification of court dates for Deputy Peak (flow diagram of who is responsible for what, dedicated Prosecutor)

**7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Ms. Magness asked if there was going to be a compost bin sale. Ms. Balz stated that it would be in August or September and that staff just received the final quotes and a contract is being developed.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Johnson stated that this was his first official meeting and he was very impressed and honored to have attended. He stated that the work staff has done in the past has been wonderful and he is happy to see the direction the District is heading.

Mr. Portune stated that the Committee is honored to have him present. Mr. Johnson stated that the Committee has his support.

Mr. Portune stated that it was a great Committee and he has been very honored and considered it a privilege to have chaired this body for this many years. Mr. Portune stated that great work is done here and it is a very collegial body and consensus decision making is practiced and has enjoyed it thoroughly. But more than it just being a great environment, there has been tremendous work done and he is not sure the general public knows just how impactful the work has been. Mr. Portune stated that this will be part of Ms. Cherry's job.

**9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The next Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday May 16, 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. Portune entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Magness moved; Ms. Hurley seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.