

**HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

DATE: May 8, 2020
TO: District Policy Committee Members
FROM: Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager

1. Introduction/Opening Comments

NOTICE: This memo is for the meeting to be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held virtually.

Policy Committee information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) is available on the District's website at www.hamiltoncountyrecycles.org.

2. Chair and Vice Chair of the Policy Committee

With the change in our representative from the Hamilton County Commissioners and the retirement of Health Commissioner Tim Ingram, Policy Committee members must nominate and vote on a new Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.

3. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the January 16, 2020 Policy Committee meeting are included as [Attachment A](#).

B. Additions to the Agenda

Please contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org if you have items to add to the agenda.

4. District Revenue Updates/Analysis

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with the prior year, as included in [Attachment B](#).

5. Policy Items

A. Carryover Balance

At the January 2020 meeting, the Policy Committee instructed staff to develop ideas for funding additional initiatives and programs from the carryover balance. As a reminder, the current carryover balance is about \$4.1 million and we are required to keep 8 months operating expenses, which is close to \$2.2 million. [Attachment C](#) is an overview of staff recommendations.

Staff Recommendation: *District Staff recommends that Policy Committee approve funding for additional spending of the carryover balance.*

B. Cincinnati Contamination Project - Round 2

In 2019, the District partnered with the City of Cincinnati, Ohio EPA, and the Recycling Partnership to conduct outreach to 27,628 households in the City of Cincinnati. A second round of this project would involve evaluating if the behavior change from the first round is still present six to eight months after the

end of the project and measuring the effectiveness of auditing fewer weeks. This project would require \$10,780 in matching funds from the District. The total grant request is \$42,152.

Staff Recommendation: *District Staff recommends that the District continues the partnership and apply for a grant to conduct a second round of contamination outreach in the City of Cincinnati in 2020.*

C. 2020-2021 Student Representative

The student representative is a one-year, non-voting position. This position was developed as a means of gaining new perspectives and ideas on recycling and waste diversion. Benefits to the student include: opportunities to create change at the local level; hands-on experience in developing policy and programs; direct experience in understanding how local government operates; opportunities to hone leadership and public speaking skills.

The District recommends that Elizabeth Ritch be appointed to serve in this role.

Staff Recommendation: *Staff recommends approving Elizabeth Ritch to serve as the Student Representative and forward the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.*

6. Informational Items

A. Effect of COVID-19 on Programming

The District has cancelled all in person programming including the Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting seminars and the Compost Bin Sale. One of the three Yard Trimmings Drop Off sites is closed until the Stay Safe Ohio order is lifted; the other two remain open with appropriate social distancing.

B. 2019 Residential Recycling Campaigns

In 2019, the District conducted two different campaigns to reduce contamination in residential curbside recycling. The first was a project with Ohio EPA, the Recycling Partnership, and Cincinnati to audit and tag recycling carts with contamination. The second was a campaign targeting 19 communities outside the City of Cincinnati with a direct mailer and digital advertising also focused on reducing contamination. Staff will give a presentation on both campaigns and compare the results.

C. Beyond 34 Initiative

Beyond 34 hosted a virtual meeting on March 9 to discuss ten proposed strategies for increasing local landfill diversion. Bob Gedert will give an update on the initiative.

D. Program Trends

[Attachment D](#) outlines a five-year trend (2015-2019) for a selection of the District's programs and a waste reduction rate comparison of large urban counties in Ohio.

E. First Quarter Performance Measures

[Attachment E](#) provides the results of the District's programs through the first quarter of 2020.

F. Environmental Enforcement Program Update

The District funds an Environmental Enforcement Deputy position to enforce illegal dumping and tire transport laws in Hamilton County. [Attachment F](#) shows activity of the deputy through April 2020.

G. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Overview

The District began accepting application for this continuous format grant in January of 2020. Three applications have been received and funded so far this year. [Attachment G](#) is a summary.

7. Tentative Future Agenda Items

8. Policy Committee Members' Comments

9. Public Comments

10. Upcoming District Meetings

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 15th, 2020**. This meeting will be held at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:00 p.m.)