

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

DATE: November 18, 2020

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting using Zoom

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative, Chair
Bob Gedert, Public Member, Vice Chair
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Lily Ritch, Student Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist
Mary Copenbaker, Business Specialist
Brad Johnson, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Joy Landry, Public Relations Specialist
Jenny Lohmann, Community Outreach Coordinator
Brad Miller, Assistant Director
Cher Mohring, Community Outreach Coordinator
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

Others in Attendance

Craig Davidson, Hamilton County Public Health
Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Matt Hittle, Ohio EPA
Kurstin Jones, Hamilton County Public Health
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Policy Committee Members Absent

Victoria Parks, Hamilton County Commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DiPuccio called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. DiPuccio asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mr. DiPuccio entertained a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Ms. Hurley moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Magness seconded. All in favor and the minutes were approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Balz introduced Gage Bradford as the District's new Community Specialist. Mr. Bradford stated he felt fortunate to be at the same virtual round table with so many other public servants and looked forward to meeting and working with everyone.

The Committee welcomed Mr. Bradford.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that revenue is steady compared to this time last year, there is a one percent reduction in tonnage which is about 7,200 tons.

Ms. Balz stated that she spoke with Mr. Riddle and he believes revenue should stay pretty consistent.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Overview -19 Impact on District Programs

Ms. Balz stated that she put together a presentation about the cumulative impact so far on District programs. The presentation can be viewed here.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

B. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant

Ms. Balz stated that two more Waste Reduction Innovation Grants have been approved since the July meeting; Last Mile Food Rescue and Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub. Ms. Balz briefly discussed each grant application.

A brief discussion ensued.

C. Second Quarter Performance Measures

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment D showed the performance measures for the second quarter.

Ms. Magness asked about the behavior change campaign. Ms. Balz discussed the two campaigns scheduled for this fall: a residential recycling campaign and a campaign focused on reducing food waste. Ms. Balz further explained the need for the cardboard recycling campaign.

Ms. Balz stated that the other campaign is a behavior change campaign focused on reducing wasted food due to this becoming increasingly measureable. A request for proposals has been sent and Ms. Balz discussed the steps to be taken once a company has been chosen. Staff hopes to launch the campaign next year.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

D. Environmental Enforcement Program

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment E showed complaints received and investigated through August and also included a map of the complaints received.

Ms. Balz stated that the Environmental Crimes Taskforce met virtually at the end of August. Issues discussed included current set-up of the program and if there were any other resources Deputy Peak needed. Things are going smoothly and all the partners are pleased.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the program.

E. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Ms. Balz stated that the District finally has a date and contractor for the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program. Clean Harbors will be the contractor and the date will be October 24, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ms. Balz stated that the program is currently being promoted on the District’s website. Residents will need to register to get the location of the drop-off. Residents will also have to choose a drop-off time and once that time slot is full, it will be removed from the website to spread people out during the day since this is a zero contact event. Staff members will not be taking surveys.

Ms. Balz stated that residents will not get out of their car; Clean Harbors will unload their material.

A brief discussion ensued about the event.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ms. Hurley stated that in light of the July meeting’s discussion regarding racial equity, asked about the potential of increasing apartment recycling. Ms. Balz stated that the District currently has a Multi-Family program which is part of the Let’s Stop Waste program but it hasn’t been promoted much this year because staff is planning on doing a big promotion for the Let’s Stop Waste program which was delayed due to COVID-19. Staff can come up with some ideas to really hone in on that part of the Let’s Stop Waste program and how we can try to increase it. Ms. Magness stated that she would like to be involved in that and stated that she has learned about new projects other parts of the country are doing at the Recycling Partnership Conference last year and gave an example. Ms. Parks stated that she would also like to be involved.
- Mr. Gedert stated that he would like to give an update on Beyond 34.
- The Committee would like staff to continue to give updates on the Waste Reduction Innovation Grants.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Rajagopal discussed illegal dumping in Colerain Township. Mr. Kesterman stated that cameras can be installed in one or two locations and they will work directly with Officer Peak. A brief discussion ensued regarding the camera locations.

Mr. Rajagopal complimented Mr. Johnson, Ms. Balz, and staff for doing a remarkable job in moving forward innovative ideas and looking more into what other people are doing.

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 Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting information will be sent at a later date.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiPuccio asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Parks moved; Ms. Magness seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.