

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

DATE: November 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**

Lexi Born, Student Representative
Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Public Health Representative, Vice Chair
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke

Staff

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

Others in Attendance

Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
Dean Ferrier, Rumpke
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health
Deputy Bryan Peak, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Bob Gedert, Public Member
Todd Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ingram called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed everyone. Mr. Ingram asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mr. Ingram stated that it was unfortunate that Commissioner Portune was unable to attend his last Solid Waste District Policy Committee Meeting. Commissioner Portune was honored at the District's Annual Awards last week and got the Recognition for Exemplary Public Service Award. Mr. Ingram stated that many folks present attended his tribute this past Monday night which was a very moving event. Mr. Ingram stated that Commissioner Portune will officially retire on December 31, 2019.

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Mr. Ingram stated that he had to leave at 2 pm for a call but should be back by 2:20 pm or so. Mr. Ingram stated that there were two action items that do require a quorum; approval of the minutes and a motion correction.

Mr. Ingram stated that he inadvertently made the motion and seconded it regarding the formation of the anaerobic digestion work group which needs to be corrected.

Mr. Ingram stated that this was the motion which was never properly seconded although it was voted on but he seconded it (September 19, 2019 Minutes, pages 3 & 4, under Anaerobic Digestion Working Group):

~~Mr. Ingram moved that the Committee form an anaerobic digestion work group of the Solid Waste Policy Committee and that Mr. Gedert is appointed to the work group.~~

~~Mr. Portune stated that before he asked for a second on the motion, asked Mr. Ingram if he would be open to a friendly amendment. Mr. Ingram stated yes. Mr. Portune moved to amend the motion from Mr. Ingram that his motion include the following quote "including District Staff, at least one Policy Committee member, and other interested stakeholders" and move that as a friendly amendment to the motion previously made.~~

~~Mr. Portune stated that the Committee would be voting on the amendment first and the Committee will move on to the motion. Mr. Portune asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Portune asked if there was a second. Mr. Ingram seconded the amendment. All in favor and the amended motion was approved.~~

~~Mr. Portune moved that the Committee adopt the motion to create an anaerobic digestion work group as stated by Mr. Ingram and as amended by a motion made by the Chair. Mr. Ingram seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.~~

Mr. Ingram moved that the Committee form an anaerobic digestion work group of the Solid Waste Policy Committee and that Mr. Gedert is appointed to the work group including District Staff, at least one Policy Committee member, and other interested stakeholders.

Mr. Ingram stated with that being said, the above was the motion, and a second needs to be made. Ms. Hurley seconded and the motion was approved. Mr. Ingram asked the Committee if everyone understood what was being voted upon. The Committee concurred. Ms. Magness asked that since she was not present, should she vote. Mr. DiPuccio asked if she understood what she was voting on. Ms. Magness stated yes. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Ingram asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Mr. Rajagopal moved to approve the minutes. Mr. DiPuccio seconded. Ms. Magness abstained due to being absent. Everyone else was in favor and the minutes were approved as corrected.

B. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda at this time.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that we are following the trend in which revenue is up about \$134,000 or five percent. In-district tonnage has decreased about nine thousand tons and out-of-district has increased about 67,000 tons this year. Mr. Ingram stated that Attachment B showed this information.

A brief discussion ensued regarding revenue.

Ms. Magness moved to accept the revenue report as presented. Mr. Rajagopal seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. POLICY ITEMS

A. 2020 Yard Trimmings Infrastructure Grant

Ms. Balz stated that earlier this year, the Committee approved staff to offer a Yard Trimmings Infrastructure Grant which is a one-time grant to try to improve communities in Hamilton County yard trimmings infrastructure. This was both for infrastructure costs (trucks, equipment, etc.) and also costs associated with letting residents know about a program.

Ms. Balz stated that two applications were received; one from Amberley Village and one from the Village of North Bend. Attachment C includes a short summary about their applications.

Ms. Balz stated that Amberley Village wishes to purchase a track mini-excavator to improve the efficiency of their Class IV composting site and right now they are using all wheeled equipment and during wet and not so great conditions, that equipment does not work well.

Ms. Balz stated that the Village of North Bend wishes to purchase equipment for a curbside leaf collection program. North Bend, a few times a year, does allow residents to drop-off branches at a location but this does not include leaves.

Staff reviewed both applications and is recommending approval of both applications.

A brief question/answer session ensued regarding the Amberley Village application.

Mr. Ingram asked for a motion. Ms. Hurley moved that the Committee accept these grant proposals. Mr. Rajagopal seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. 2019 Waste Diversion Innovation Grant

Mr. Ingram stated that the Committee did not need to vote on these since they were under \$15,000 and was for information only.

Ms. Balz stated that this is the second to last update for the 2019 Waste Reduction Innovation Grant. These proposals are for \$10,000 and under so there is no approval from the Committee. There will be an additional report in January as there were a few reviewed this week that were not included.

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment D summarized the eight projects staff recommended for funding.

Ms. Balz briefly summarized some of the projects.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

Mr. Ingram suggested having Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center present at a future meeting to report on their program progress.

B. Be a Food Waste Warrior Project funded by the World Wildlife Fund

Ms. Balz stated that the District applied for and received a grant to be one of nine projects in the United States to test out the food waste curriculum. Ms. Rivera brought it to three schools all of which conducted audits.

Ms. Rivera presented an overview of the highlights and results of the project.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

C. Environmental Enforcement Program Update

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment E has been changed from previous attachments, based on feedback from the Committee, in that, it was a little simpler and also included a table showing the complaints by jurisdiction so far this year.

Ms. Balz stated that the City of Cincinnati represents about 75 percent (123) of all complaints and Colerain Township, the next highest, with 17. Ms. Balz stated that she would like to see more complaints coming in from the townships because when this program was developed, staff heard that illegal dumping was a big problem in the townships. This program was formed in hopes it would help solve this problem.

Ms. Balz stated that staff is not seeing as many complaints from those and Deputy Peak and she have gone out to townships to do presentations to try and increase that number.

Ms. Magness asked to see the locations of the complaints on a map; she wants to know where they are concentrated. Ms. Balz stated that there may not be an exact address and gave an example. Ms. Magness stated she thinks that there are a lot on the borders of the city where people outside the city who have to pay for their trash come into the city to dump and she is curious if that is happening and where the favorite dumping spots are located.

Deputy Peak discussed the popular dumping spots within the city.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

D. Third Quarter Performance Measures

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment F showed the performance measures from the third quarter. Ms. Balz highlighted some of the successes; Recycling Partnership with the City of Cincinnati targeting 27,000 households with cart tagging and results are pending, working with 148 facilities reaching 29,000 employees through the Let's Stop Waste Program, over 10,000 social media followers, 67,000 page views of the compost blog and noted that this is the tenth year of the blog, through school waste programs over 8,000 students were reached, and over 1,000 people were reached through the wasted food event in September.

Ms. Magness stated that with the electronic education newsletter only being distributed to 1,200 teachers; years ago, 10,000 hard copies were mailed. Ms. Magness stated that she would like to, if the budget allowed, potentially see a print version. She thinks a lot of new teachers are missing out. Ms. Magness stated that maybe not the whole newsletter but maybe a post card, etc. inviting them to connect and gave an example.

A brief question/answer session ensued.

6. TENTATIVE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Balz stated that she will be putting together a wrap up report on the District's Residential Recycling Campaign and the Recycling Partnership Campaign.

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Mr. DiPuccio asked if there were any updates on the landfill. Mr. Riddle stated the eastern expansion has begun and briefly discussed what this involved.

A brief discussion ensued.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. DiPuccio asked if staff have reached out to the new music venue in terms of what they might be able to incorporate in their design for recycling and waste reduction. Ms. Balz stated that staff had not. Mr. DiPuccio stated it was just a thought and sometimes it is hard to retrofit those things.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the lack of recycling availability at public places.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that with Commissioner Portune resigning at the end of the year, asked if there has been any communication as to who his replacement might be. Ms. Balz stated that each January the Commissioners decide who will be on the Policy Committee so it could be an already standing Commissioner.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Commissioner Portune's replacement.

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 16, 2020. 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. Rajagopal asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Magness moved; Mr. Rajagopal seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.