

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2014**

Members Present

Mark Taylor, Chair
Vic Nussbaum, Vice Chair
Kay Brandon
Bob Davis
Bob Mays
Tom Phillips
Godfrey Uzochukwu

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Sheldon Smith
Jason Jernigan
Mary McClellan
Chris Marriott
Nancy Lindemeyer
Alex Arnett

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Wednesday, February 26th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Solid Waste Management Commission Conference Room.

Chair Mark Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. One guest was in attendance, Stan Joseph, Waste Management of the Carolinas.

Approval of minutes of January 22, 2014 meeting

Chair Taylor stated that the approval of the January minutes will be deferred until the next meeting so that everyone can review and comment on them.

Old Business

a. White Street Landfill LFG Contract Update

Dale Wyrick stated that he had small group meetings with Council and was asked to go back and explore whether the City can finance this project through Petra. Petra has agreed to give an option of developer financing, a City financing option where they would design and construct or an in-between option where the City could buy Petra out after 7 years. It was determined that if the City finances the project there could be about \$1 million a year in revenue however, the project would cost \$5.1 million. It is expected that progress will be made after an upcoming Council work session.

Bob Mays asked if Petra was okay with the delay and if they meet MWBE requirements Dale Wyrick stated that Petra will give Council any information needed and they have met all MWBE requirements for the original proposal.

b. Update on consultant review of WSLF post-closure restrictions

Dale Wyrick distributed a draft map of WSLF drawn by HDR Engineering showing the compliance boundaries, buffer areas and different phases. The map is one of the Commission's first steps in defining the areas that can be used at some point for a re-purposed landfill.

Tom Phillips asked if the property was maintained for other uses would the buffer areas need to be kept intact.

Dale Wyrick stated that the compliance area is required by the state however, the buffer zones were put in place by the City.

New Business

a. Discussion of City contracts for MSW disposal

Dale Wyrick referred to a handout listing the main three contracts the City holds and important dates associated with them. Hilco Transport hauls about 200,000 tons of MSW from the Greensboro Transfer Station to the Uwharrie Environmental Landfill and the City pays about \$13/ton or \$2.6 million annually of which \$1.7 million is recovered through user fees. The contract with Hilco Transport expires October 15, 2015 which may be renewed depending on the opening of the landfill in Randolph County.

Bob Mays asked when staff would get together to discuss the available options regarding the MSW contract.

Dale Wyrick stated that all options are currently being monitored however, it hinges greatly on the construction of the Randolph Landfill which is pending permits and a possible lawsuit.

Bob Mays stated that considering how the MSW bids can be controversial, it would be good to work out a protocol and timetable relating to bid discussions.

Stan Josephs stated that the transport of the MSW wouldn't affect the Republic contract since it still has to be hauled to the transfer station.

Dale Wyrick stated that with the possibility of landfills in Randolph and Rockingham, there may be options of direct hauling of MSW. In that scenario, the two contracts should be kept separate and distinct.

Bob Mays asked Mr. Josephs how the progress was going with the Randolph County Landfill and if S&ME have been hired for engineering.

Stan Josephs stated that there will be two more hearings and the last one is in the first week of April.

Kay Brandon asked a question about the actual cost to the city for MSW disposal, after including any revenue, and how Greensboro's cost compares to other cities. Dale Wyrick stated that on disposal, the cost is \$2M and the hauling cost is \$42 per ton. Bob Mays stated that was about 140,000 tons and that includes transportation and front-loader service as well.

Dale Wyrick stated that the disposal contract is held by Republic Services. The City pays about \$22.81/ton or \$4.56 million annually of which about \$3 million is recovered through user fees. This contract also expires October 15, 2015 with the option of 2 additional 1 year extensions.

Bob Mays asked if the fee covers cost 100% and if there was any profit made.

Dale Wyrick stated that the cost is recovered plus some extra on the private tonnage.

Chair Taylor referred to a handout entitled Solid Waste Management Fact Sheet that has some of the financial details of the contracts and stated that more guidance is needed on the framework and timeframe in relation to contract expiration/renewal.

Dale Wyrick stated that the contract with ReCommunity expires in April, 2018 with the option for an additional 5-year extension. The City receives about \$30/ton or about \$850,000 annually from this contract. There is a survey out relating to recycling which is

an effort to increase the recycling tonnage. The goal is to reach about 40,000 tons for recycling.

Dale Wyrick stated that Council Member Fox has asked for individual feedback from the Commission members relating to the mission of the group and whether that mission is being met.

Bob Mays stated that it would be a good idea for Chair Taylor and Bob Davis to meet with Councilman Fox.

Chair Taylor stated that, regarding the request by Councilman Fox, Dale Wyrick should send an e-mail to the Commission in the near future to clarify the status of the request. In the meantime, Councilman Fox will be contacted to arrange for a meeting.

b. Tasks for work groups for SWMC 2014 Work Plan

Chair Taylor began discussions about what the tasks will entail so that the work groups can start making progress between the monthly meetings.

Vic Nussbaum stated that he has all intentions of getting the group together for discussions however, due to personal circumstances he doesn't have a presentation for this meeting. An e-mail will be sent to his group members this week including schedules for future meetings.

Bob Mays stated that progress will be made with the issue of alternative uses of WSLF when it is determined how much usable space at WSLF is available.

Tom Phillips stated that his group which focuses on regional collaboration, is waiting for a report that provides details from neighboring communities.

Chair Taylor stated that his expectations of the work group leaders are to report monthly preferably in writing and ahead of the Commission meetings, keeping notes of the work group meetings and accountability for the group's progress. Also it was recommended that a staff member be appointed to each work group.

c. Recycling Survey Update

Alex Arnett stated that to get an idea of where the residents are at in terms of the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors towards recycling, the best thing to do was to get hard data through a survey which was sent out with the water bill. The survey is also available online. At this point, 8,800 surveys have been returned and a total of 9,000 is expected which is a 10% response rate. The types of questions asked were “How full is your recycling can when you put it on the street?” and “What items are acceptable in the recycling container?” The information gathered will be used to inform citizens and encourage them to recycle more. The main response from the data thus far is that residents want weekly recycling. Another one of the top responses is that people want a calendar or information on what can be recycled. Overall there is a high level of interest in recycling and people feel invested in the program.

Tom Phillips asked if it will be considered where the surveys are coming from relative to where people are recycling the most.

Alex Arnett stated that is something that will be looked at and that is something that was expected. About 90% of people so far have included their address and that data will be used.

Chair Taylor asked if the surveys without an address could be identified with a zip code and Mr. Arnett stated that it was decided to not take any address information in that case.

Vic Nussbaum asked if is possible to get data on how much recycling was received on individual days of the week over a six month period and Mary McLellan stated that was certainly possible.

Chair Taylor stated that the recycling work group under Mr. Nussbaum’s guidance would be keeping track of the issues with the survey and working with staff.

Sheldon Smith stated that in regards to the different days of the week, Monday and Tuesday is heavy recycling and yard waste and Thursday and Friday is heavy garbage and bulk. The focus of the program will be getting very specific as to what is collected on certain routes. Educating the public as to why there is a recycling program will also be focused on.

Bob Davis asked Mr. Smith what his take is relating to going back to weekly recycling and Mr. Smith stated it would probably be more cost effective to provide another recycling can rather than add another recycling truck.

Mary McClellan stated that one of the questions on the survey is “How full is your container every two weeks?” and that is helpful information when the request is received to going back to weekly recycling. In regards to the recycling program assessment, it was something that was created as a communication tool between the Commission and ReCommunity to determine where Greensboro’s recycling program is. There are seven performance indicators that look at the programs the City offers, education and outreach, marketing, policy and code enforcement, technology, performance measurement and community input. Also Greensboro’s recycling program will be compared to other cities to get an understanding of where Greensboro is.

d. Other new business

There was no other new business before the Commission.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 26, 2014, at 3:00 pm.

Proposed agenda items:

- a. Work Group Reports

Comments from Commission, Staff, Council Representatives

Dr. Uzo stated that A&T University recently participated in a competition for sustainability practices and policies and was ranked 10th out of the over 300 universities that participated.

Adjournment

Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mays. There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mark Taylor, Chair
MT/jd-gm