

**MINUTES OF THE  
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MAY 13, 2014**

**Members Present**

Mark Taylor, Chair  
Kay Brandon  
Bob Davis  
Bob Mays  
Tom Phillips  
Godfrey Uzochukwu  
Tony Davies  
Mary Louise Smith

**Staff Present**

Dale Wyrick  
Jim Westmoreland  
David Parrish  
Chris Marriott  
Sheldon Smith  
Nancy Lindemeyer  
Alex Arnett

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Solid Waste Management Commission Conference Room. Council member Marikay Abuzuaiter attended the meeting. Guest attendee was Mary McClellan with ReCommunity.

Chair Mark Taylor welcomed everyone, with special recognition of Mary Louise Smith, a new appointee to replace Vic Nussbaum. He announced that the meetings have been changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in order to better accommodate our City Council liaisons.

One guest was in attendance, Stan Joseph with Waste Management of the Carolinas.

**Approval of minutes of March 26, 2014 meeting**

Chair Taylor requested comments for revisions, and hearing none stated that the March minutes were approved by acclamation with no changes.

**Old Business**

**a. White Street Landfill LFG Contract Update**

Dale Wyrick stated that staff is meeting this week and next week in small groups with Council to review a different version of the original plan. The project in place was a two-

generator project and the new version is a one generator with turbines that can be used on an intermediate basis, in order to protect Cone and the jobs Cone provides.

Dale Wyrick stated that this means instead of \$155,000.00 per year, the City would receive more like \$55,000.00 a year. He stated that the change was made because Cone did not want to lose any gas volumes over the life of the contracts. Mr. Mays stated that the contract was bid knowing what Cone used and the City was not infringing on that. Dale Wyrick stated that the two generator scenario would infringe on Cone's volumes over the next 15 years to the point that it would eventually cut their volume of gas in half.

David Parrish stated that Cone now has approximately 200-250 employees in place. Tony Davies stated that Cone has stated they need the gas to stay in business. Dale Wyrick feels there will be a better sense of direction after staff's meetings with them next week.

Bob Mays stated it was disappointing to him and the sub-committee spent a lot of time on this. Cone had 1,100 employees when this deal was first looked at. It is disappointing for the City's revenue to drop so drastically.

#### **b. Letter of Appreciation to Vic Nussbaum**

Chair Taylor stated that a Letter of Appreciation was sent to Vic Nussbaum expressing appreciation for his service. Copies of the letter were distributed.

#### **c. Other Old Business**

Dale Wyrick stated that he had received a call from Greg Peverall, with WasteZero wanting to know what they could do to help the Commission decide about the "Pay as You Throw" program. Mark Taylor stated that their proposal had been assigned to the Recycling and Reduction Work Group, and with Vic Nussbaum's resignation, Bob Davis has assumed leadership of that work group.

Chair Taylor stated that the proposal to the City is a "Pay as You Throw" program where bags would be purchased at local home supply stores, filled with waste and placed on the curb. It is intended to provide a financial incentive to reduce disposal by having people recycle, reduce, reuse, etc. Tom Phillips stated that it seems like a "penalty" for not recycling and he does not think that is the direction the City should go.

Chair Taylor stated that Mr. Davies' work group will re-examine the issue and requested they make a recommendation to the Commission next month.

## **New Business**

### **a. Work Group Reports**

Bob Mays stated that his work group, A, has not met due to schedule conflicts.

Chair Taylor stated that his work group, B-1, has not made progress since the last meeting. They did meet previously with MEMIOS, a Greensboro-based company who proposes a scalable pilot waste-to-energy project, and the meeting went well. The work group asked MEMIOS to address some questions and concerns and they have. The work group will have a status report next month.

Tom Phillips, B-3 Regional Collaboration, stated the committee has not met, although he forwarded the draft report that HDR prepared with the City of Greensboro and the Winston-Salem City/County Utility Commission to look at ways to cooperate. The report identified some ways to cooperate in areas such as hazardous waste since there are economies of scale. Scrap tires, white goods, and yard waste are more difficult because they need to be hauled somewhere. Randolph County is still waiting for their landfill permit and Rockingham County has expressed some interest for allowing additional trash to come into the County, but that probably will not happen.

Bob Davies, C-2 Recycling and Reduction Strategies, stated that his group met and discussed the fact that only one staff member monitors the 81,641 residential recycling containers. Ideally, four monitors are needed. The set-out rate for the City is 63%. A composition study to determine how much garbage is in the recycling containers was recently completed. Dale Wyrick stated that there is a lot of trash - about 20% - that is being put in the recycling cans. Mary McClellan stated that the work group is very concerned about the recycling participation rate. Bob Davis stated there was a request for a map showing the participation distribution. Mary McClellan stated that a recycling assessment will be presented at the June meeting. Tom Phillips suggested there should be targeted mailings, possibly included in the water bills so that residents are aware of the program. Bob Davis suggested that recycling week information cards should be used again to let people know which weeks are recycling weeks. Dale Wyrick stated that could be done, but there is a cost for printing and mailing. Bob Davis stated that Easter and Thanksgiving present a problem with recycling - people don't remember to put their

recycling containers out one day early. He suggested that there be advertising on the Public TV channel as a reminder in addition to publishing that information.

**b. NC SWANA 2014 Conference, April 7-10, Raleigh, NC**

Chair Taylor stated that he attended the NC SWANA Conference held in Raleigh, April 7-10. He gave a brief update on some of the topics presented:

- Ray Hoffman of Republic Services talked about orphan landfills - landfills built before 1983 that are unlined. There are almost 700 in North Carolina. Ten counties are receiving over \$100,000 a year to deal with these landfills, but not a lot is being done. The private waste companies have initiated a proposal to the state for reclamation of some of these landfills to remove waste from the ground and the long-term contamination threat. Senate Bill 580 was passed last year to expedite remediation of these landfills through public/private partnerships and that proposal is currently in the House Environmental Committee. Bob Mays questioned whether the Nealtown Road landfill is eligible for some of those funds. Dale Wyrick stated that the current property owner would need to make that request. His recommendation would be to move the contaminated dirt from Nealtown to Phase III of the White Street Landfill and avoid the costs of transferring it to Montgomery County.
- David Scarborough with the City of Raleigh gave a presentation on Raleigh's Solid Waste Service Department's attempt to become a Self-Sustaining Enterprise Fund. They serve over 400,000 citizens with an annual budget of \$30M and they became an Enterprise Fund in 2013. Their General Fund supplements their budget approximately \$11M. He said they would have to raise their monthly fee from \$12.30 per household to \$20.30 per household to become self-sustaining.
- Scott Mouw with NCDENR talked about recycling trends and emerging markets. He said commercial dry "dirty MRF's" are an emerging trend. That is where they take roll-off containers that have a lot of cardboard and other dry wastes from big box stores and run them through a materials recovery facility (MRF) and then transfer residuals to a landfill and sell the recyclables. Other trends noted were plastics to fuel, changes in packaging trends, and changes in what is being recycled.
- Michael Scott with NCDENR gave a regulatory update. The 2013 statewide disposal (landfilling) was about 9M tons, which was down about 300,000 tons from the prior year. Of those 9M tons, 7.3M tons was MSW. The state has a landfill capacity

of approximately 32 years, although there are a lot of variables in that calculation. The state disposal rate over the last 3 years is about 1 ton per capita, per year, so each person is disposing about one (1) ton of solid waste per year. In 2013, the number was 0.94 tons per capita. On a side note, a gentleman representing SWANA nationally, said that waste-to-energy communities are landfilling about 0.35 tons per capita – so that is about a third of our statewide average. He also said that, with regard to landfill operating costs, large landfill operating costs are less than or equal to \$10.00 per ton while small landfills are less than or equal to \$20.00 per ton. Returning to Mr. Scott’s presentation, North Carolina is a net waste exporter; we exported about 600,000 tons and imported about 200,000 tons in 2013. The new State Solid Waste Management Plan update is underway for 2014 – 2024. The commission will want to obtain and review it when it is published. The overall state compliance rate of permitted solid waste management facilities is 95%.

All of the presentations will be posted on the NC SWANA website ([www.ncswana.org](http://www.ncswana.org)).

### **c. Other New Business**

Tom Phillips stated he had been thinking about how our work groups operate and he offered a suggestion relative to work group A (White Street Landfill); possibly have the entire commission hold some neighborhood meetings in the community to have some discussions to find out what the neighborhoods want and get their input; perhaps meet with Jamal Fox and other Council members that are interested and then expand that to meet with community leaders and develop a program to then take to the community to get their input.

Bob Mays stated that may be a good idea but you have to get some facts put together about the property so that it is defined enough that people can understand what development options are available and the costs of that development. There is still a tremendous amount of data to collect before opening it up for public comment. He feels he may need to remove himself as Chair of that work group. Tony Davies stated that he agrees and feels that the more information made available for discussion, the better for all concerned.

Bob Davis suggested that there be a public hearing at Peeler Recreation Center, inviting people from all over the area to gain feedback. Tony Davies suggested that there be a summary of the East Greensboro Study report to the City’s Economic Development

Committee as the original report is so large. This would make it easier for everyone to review and understand.

Marikay Abuzuaiter suggested that it would be prudent to check and see what other cities have done with their closed landfills, as there are a lot of cities that have made them into parkland and different types of recreational facilities and have also built office buildings.

Chair Taylor reminded Work Group leaders that when a meeting is set for their work group, to advise the Chair and/or the entire Commission so members can have the opportunity to ask the leader of the work group if they might attend. The leader could then know if there are going to be more than 5 members present and if so, let Nancy Lindemeyer know so she can post a public meeting notice.

### **Comments from Commissioners, Staff, Council Representatives**

Mary Louise Smith asked how she could be appointed to a Work Group. She stated that recycling would be her interest. Therefore, she will join Bob Davis' Work Group.

Jim Westmoreland thanked everyone for their time and participation on this Commission. He welcomed feedback from the Commission.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mark Taylor, Chair  
MT/jd