

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, January 9, 2008
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Hopkins.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members present were: Randy Alewine, Floyd Danner, Ruth Hopkins, Kent Seyfried, Bob Stutz, Tom Stewart, Mike Clagett, Elaine Giessel, Tom Ireland, and Bob Tully. Others present included Cindy Kemper, Betsy Betros, Phil Askey, and Maureen Deeds, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ruth Hopkins entertained a motion to approve the November 14, 2007, Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) minutes as written. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cindy Kemper stated that the committee needs to elect 2008 officers. She opened the election process by asking if any committee member wanted to step forward as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. She offered that both current officers have agreed to continue to serve if called upon. After a brief committee discussion, it was moved and seconded that Ruth Hopkins remain as Chairman and Tom Stewart continue as Vice-Chairman for 2008. The committee unanimously approved the selections.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Kemper updated the Committee on the status of the 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan).

- a. The Plan was unanimously adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on December 13, 2007. Bill Bider with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) received his copy this week to begin KDHE's review and approval process.

Implementation of the Plan has begun with existing resources. Additional county resources to fully implement the Plan will be part of the Environmental Department's 2009 budget request. Ms. Kemper stated that the public's priority placed on environmental issues may help support the Department's request. She presented information about fee provisions in state statute that might be used to provide a funding mechanism for Plan implementation.

- b. Betsy Betros discussed residential municipal solid waste reduction measures and strategies for 2008 and beyond. A handout was provided that identified actions that need to begin 2008 and the staff responsibilities for those actions. The committee was encouraged to promote the Plan elements within any community group organizations to which they belong. If members would like to have staff present the Plan to their organizations or a copy of a standard PowerPoint presentation about the Plan emailed to them, they can contact Ms. Kemper.

C/D LANDFILL UNIVERSE

Phil Askey provided a slide show about construction/demolition (C/D) landfill activities. Key points presented were as follows:

1. The county has seven C/D landfills with 560,660 tons disposed of in 2005. The C/D waste comes from both Ks and Mo at about a 50-50% split.
2. Kansas has 293 C/D landfills compared to Nebraska with 21, Oklahoma with 8, and Missouri with 3. Oklahoma and Missouri have strict liner requirements and operating criteria and they have lower C&D disposal rates. Kansas and Nebraska do not require strict liner systems.
3. There are two C/D landfill recycling facilities in Kansas: The C&D Recyclers in Wichita, which opened in 2002, and the Green Point Recycling in Topeka which opened in 2007. These facilities actively recycle C/D waste. One of the main challenges to C/D recycling is finding outlets that will take the material.
4. Kansas Statutes and KDHE regulations have a strict definition for C/D waste. They do not allow C/D material to be disposed in a C/D landfill unless it is from a C/D remodeling/repair project (exceptions are untreated wood and sawdust, and window glass from any source). Manufacturing waste that has similar characteristics to C/D waste is not allowed such as wood waste from furniture making. KDHE has observed that waste screening is difficult at C/D landfills and that unauthorized waste is often a problem. KDHE is not currently supportive of expanding their definition of C/D waste to include other sources for C/D waste.
5. Industrial landfills in Kansas are basically monofills of a specific waste type from a specific industry or facility. They are similar to C/D landfills in that they have limited design criteria. KDHE has permitted one industrial C/D landfill hybrid in southeast Kansas.
6. KDHE is working on new C/D landfill liner and slope requirements and improvements for new permitted sites within the state to help control and drain contact water. The contact water mixed with C/D waste could be a problem with hydrogen sulfide/methane gas generation such as the situation at the APAC-Reno C/D Landfill.

The committee discussed whether it would be better to promote waste reduction options for C/D landfills or allow C/D landfills to accept additional waste streams. The latter would require a change to state law, but might preserve space in Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. However, it would also require additional waste screening requirements and regulatory inspections to be sure that unauthorized waste was not being disposed. Ms. Kemper suggested that this issue may not be timely to decide, in light of concerns over hydrogen sulfide emissions from the APARC/Reno Landfill and the Board of County Commissioners interest in strengthening C/D landfill regulations in the County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kent Seyfried informed the committee that the 2008 KDHE WORKS! Conference on Recycling, Composting, and Household Hazardous Waste will be held on March 25 through March 28, 2007 at the Overland Park Marriott. Various tours will be given in the county on Tuesday, March 25 including Olathe's HHW facility and the County's LEED Sunset Office Building.

The 2008 meeting dates are as follows: March 12; May 14; July 9; September 10; and November 12.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The JCED will provide a light dinner served at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Prepared by: Maureen Deeds
Date: 01/09/08