

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Hopkins.

Committee members present: Tom Stewart, Dave Greene, Elaine Giessel, Ruth Hopkins, Mike Clagett, Tom Ireland, and Kent Seyfried. Others present included: Cindy Kemper, Betsy Betros, Phil Askey, Julie Coon, and Maureen Deeds, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

MINUTES APPROVAL

A quorum was not present. Approval of the previous meeting minutes along with election of 2009 officers and other action items on the agenda will be postponed to the March 11th meeting.

RECYCLING PROGRAM CHANGES AND UPDATE

Deffenbaugh Industries Recycling Program Update

Mike Clagett described changes in the recycling industry and provided a recycling program update from Deffenbaugh's perspective. Mr. Clagett stated that recycling markets have changed dramatically since November 2008 due to the economic downturn. Despite very tight markets for recyclables, Deffenbaugh Recycling he is still able to find markets for their materials; however, the dollar value of recyclables has gone down significantly. For example, mid-summer market prices for newspaper were \$180-\$190 a ton, but in November, prices fell to \$20-\$25 a ton.

Mr. Clagett added that Deffenbaugh has been able so far to rely on strong relationships with their vendors to weather the current economic crisis and emphasized that the company is committed to recycling over the long haul. They are looking past the crisis and moving forward with plans and programs to increase recycling so that they will be ready when markets improve.

City of Mission and the MARC Residential Solid Waste Survey

Betsy Betros and Julie Coon recently gave presentations at three solid waste informational meetings held by the City of Mission. Ms. Betros stated the meetings were very well attended by residents and the feedback and communication flow has been good. Mission's new curbside program of trash collection, unlimited recyclables, and yard waste collection began January 1, 2009. Residents have adjusted well to the new system.

Ms. Betros summarized the findings from the 2008 MARC Residential Solid Waste Survey. Johnson County partnered with MARC and the Kansas counties of Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte to complete the survey. The survey was

designed to gauge the interests and opinions of residents related to solid waste issues within their community to compare with the 2005 survey results. The survey highlighted changes among residents since 2005 regarding various solid waste topics. For example, people are more informed about recycling options available to them, and they are making decisions about what they buy based on perceptions of the environmental impact. The entire survey may be viewed at: <http://www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/reports.htm>)

JOHNSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Plan Consistency Criteria

Ms. Kemper stated the changes discussed at the previous meeting were incorporated into the document and committee approval was now needed for the document. However, with no quorum present, the matter was tabled until the March 11th meeting.

Plan Implementation Update

Julie Coon summarized recent staff efforts to implement the 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan (see attached table). Notably, staff has held meetings with representatives from Deffenbaugh Industries, City of Olathe, and the Johnson County residential waste haulers to discuss various solid waste issues affecting them. After hearing from cities, and other affected parties, the JCED has decided to update county-wide solid waste regulations to, among other things, establish a level playing field with regard to solid waste services. The regulations will include requirements that residential haulers provide for separate collection of yard waste and off-site composting. Staff has discussed this approach with the residential waste haulers who indicated they will need regulatory certainty and enough time to comply in order to minimize impacts on their businesses.

APAC-RENO C/D LANDFILL AND JOHNSON COUNTY LANDFILL UPDATES

APAC-Reno C/D Landfill

Ms. Kemper reported that KDHE's 2007 permit to the Landfill which imposed a closure date (among other requirements) was immediately appealed by APAC-Reno, and the company has been in negotiations with KDHE ever since to reach an agreeable solution. Key negotiation points include higher closure elevations and lifting restrictions on the life of the landfill. It appears that a revised permit could be issued by KDHE soon.

Johnson County Landfill

Phil Askey provided a PowerPoint update on the major changes and the current happenings at the Johnson County Landfill. The Phase 6, stage B1 disposal area was recently constructed and approved for landfilling by KDHE. The Phase 4 area has undergone continued removal of scrap metal and equipment inventory which had been stored for many years in this area. The composting site within Phase 4 is in full operation and is now processing large amounts of yard waste.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Kemper stated the state legislative platform for Johnson County has been adopted and it includes a plank on solid waste supporting action to expand the uses of an existing county fee so that it could cover the cost to implement Solid Waste Management Plans. This is a high priority plank in the county's platform in order finance all the actions prescribed in the Plan at the discretion of the County Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. JCED will provide a light dinner served at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Prepared by: Maureen Deeds
Date: 01-14-09