

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Committee members present: Randy Alewine, Mike Clagett, Floyd Danner, Betty de Wit, Dave Greene, Ruth Hopkins, Gerry Miller, Kent Seyfried, Tom Stewart, and Bob Tully. Others present included: Cindy Kemper, Phil Askey, Julie Coon, Craig Wood, and Maureen Deeds, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ruth Hopkins entertained a motion to approve the March 11, 2009, Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) minutes as written. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REAPPOINTMENTS

Maureen Deeds explained the process for member appointment and reappointment to the SWMC. The members hold staggered three-year terms. Those positions representing cities are approved by the Council of Mayors. All other positions are approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Announcement was made that two committee members, Mike Clagett (representing private recycling) and Cheryl Scott (representing cities of the First Class) have notified Cindy Kemper that they plan to retire from the committee but not until replacements have been found.

JOHNSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Annual Plan Review for 2009

Phil Askey updated the committee on the annual Plan review and update for 2009. The State requires the SWMC to review and update the Plan annually. The Plan review was prepared as a separate appendix (Appendix Q) that will be added to the 2007 Plan. The committee unanimously approved the 2009 updates to the 2007 Plan as Appendix Q. The updates will be forwarded to the County Legal Department, then to BOCC for approval.

Mike Clagett attended a recent solid waste forum that raised the question of whether or not committee members could be held liable for actions they take that subsequently turn out badly. Cindy Kemper agreed to contact the County's Legal Department for an answer to this question.

Plan Implementation Update

Julie Coon summarized recent staff efforts to implement the 2007 Plan and provided a detailed spreadsheet with updated Plan activities. She also discussed a federal stimulus grant offered through the U.S. Department of Energy called the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant. The County will receive about \$550,000 that will primarily be used to promote transportation efficiency and to conduct building energy audits. JCED has an opportunity to use part of the grant funding for waste reduction and recycling in the County. Three projects under consideration include: 1) Increase glass recycling through a partnership with the Ripple Glass Company by purchasing and strategically placing glass recycling bins around the County; 2) Train residents on back-yard composting, then sell them discounted backyard composting bins; 3) Purchase and loan "clear" recycling bins for use at special events (public or private) in the County. Public education would accompany all these projects.

Craig Wood stated he is working on the commercial side and has been networking with a number of different companies to make them aware of the implementation activities recommended in the Solid Waste Management Plan. He is also trying to identify recycling opportunities for multifamily housing units.

Recycling Update

Mike Claggett reported that export markets for fiber materials may be starting to show small gains. As the markets improve, this will benefit local recyclers and assist with the waste reduction measures in the Plan.

Mr. Claggett said that Deffenbaugh will soon have the ability to provide cities that hold contracts with more accurate information about the quantity of materials collected for disposal and recycling. This is possible because of computer chips in the carts. He stated that Deffenbaugh recently lost the contract for Kansas City, Missouri curbside recycling to Town & County Disposal, reducing the recyclables processed at the Deffenbaugh Materials Recovery Facility by about 1,500 tons per month.

KDHE-BWM Grant Support Program Support Approvals

In accordance with state requirements, JCED reviews KDHE waste reduction grant applications for consistency with the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. Mr. Askey said that consistency forms were completed for four waste tire recycling grant applications since the previous SWMC meeting. Ms. Kemper noted she is a member of the KS Solid Waste Grant Review Committee that reviews all solid waste grant applications.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Kemper stated SB 183 was consolidated into HB 2085 and enacted by the Kansas Legislature. HB 2085 removed the "sunset" for the state waste tire fee and added language clarifying that county commissions may, at their discretion, assess a fee to defray the costs to implement county solid waste management plans. Johnson County, KDHE, and Deffenbaugh all supported the Bill.

CRITERIA FOR BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD PROGRAM UPDATE

The committee discussed criteria for Johnson County business recognition awards for green waste reduction efforts. JCED staff and two committee members are developing the criteria and application for this program. Ideas are being consolidated from similar programs outside the county that recognize and award waste reduction achievements. A draft of the proposed criteria and application will be available for review by committee members at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 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 8:25 p.m.

Prepared by: Maureen Deeds
Date: 05-13-09