

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, July 8, 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: Mike Clagett, Maril Crabtree, Floyd Danner, Betty de Wit, Dave Drovetta, Elaine Giessel, Dave Greene, Ruth Hopkins, Cheryl Scott, and Tom Stewart. Others present included: Melissa Mundt, Assistant City Administrator, Gardner; and Cindy Kemper, Betsy Betros, Julie Coon, Craig Wood, and Maureen Deeds, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

Cindy Kemper welcomed Ms. Mundt, Assistant City Administrator from Gardner to the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ruth Hopkins entertained a motion to approve the May 13, 2009, Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) minutes with one correction to the recycling update. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved with the correction noted.

JOHNSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Annual Plan Review for 2009

Cindy Kemper provided a brief overview of the annual review and update of the Plan for 2009. She noted the committee had approved the Plan update at the May meeting and the BOCC formally adopted it in June. The state will be reviewing the annual Plan update and is expected to approve it.

Residential Activities

Julie Coon recently held a meeting of composting facility managers to share the planned yard waste restrictions with them. The managers appear prepared to handle the increased volume of composting material, but they are requesting that the county and cities assist in building end markets for the finished compost.

Meeting with Mayors

Annabeth Surbaugh met with the mayors to share the county's plans and listen to any city concerns in implementing the waste reduction strategies. Cindy Kemper provided an overview of the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan at the meeting. Those in attendance were pleased the County is taking the lead in addressing solid waste challenges, and were generally supportive of proceeding with the next steps in the waste reduction process.

Education and Outreach

The Environmental Department has been making great strides towards getting information to the public regarding waste issues. There is a new website under construction (www.jocorecycles.org) and a newsletter in the works. An insert has been designed to be placed in the Wastewater Department bills. It is primarily about the coming yard waste restrictions and illegal dumping. The County sponsored a successful "Go Green Save Green" event that was well attended by County employees, families, and people from the community. Presentations are continuing to homes associations and other community groups throughout the county concerning implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Regional Recycling Challenge

The Mid America Regional Council (MARC) is sponsoring a regional challenge to encourage local governments to start or expand recycling programs. The challenge has been taken on by 26 organizations in the area including Johnson County. This program encourages people to reduce waste. The County's paper reduction campaign has been very successful in reducing paper purchases and paper waste through encouraging double-sided printing, use of recycled content paper, and expanding paper recycling capacity (in addition to other recyclable materials). For more information on the MARC challenge, visit: <http://www.marc.org/>

Block Grant

Julie Coon discussed a grant that the County is receiving from the U.S. Department of Energy called Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG). The grant will support waste reduction and recycling activities in the county (among other things that promote energy efficiency). One proposed waste reduction activity partners with Ripple Glass to collect mixed-color glass throughout the metro area. Ripple Glass is a new local start-up company formed out of desire by Boulevard Brewery to create a local outlet for glass bottle recycling. If the Department of Energy approves this part of the EECBG grant, Johnson County will partner with Ripple Glass to place nine collection bins throughout Johnson County.

In partnership with Bridging The Gap, the County's EECBG funds will also be used to purchase 80 portable clear stream recycling containers. The containers are to be distributed for recycling at local events. Bridging The Gap will manage the program, and Johnson County will provide storage and distribution of the bins.

Craig Wood stated that EECBG funds will also be used to purchase 500 backyard composting bins from Norseman Plastics. Johnson County Extension will use their Master Gardner volunteers to train residents on back-yard composting. Residents who participate in the training will be offered the backyard composting bins at a discounted price.

FEE STRUCTURE AND COST ESTIMATES

Craig Wood described the need to develop a solid waste fee structure to fund the county's current and future solid waste expenses, plan implementation, and infrastructure. A request for proposal for a fee rate study will be going out to prospective bidders in July or August.

JOHNSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE CODE

Betsy Betros gave an overview of the proposed new county solid waste regulations which staff has been working on for many months. The new code will replace all past resolutions and rules & regulations pertaining to solid waste management adopted since 1982. Environmental is working closely with the Legal Department on this project.

Ms. Coon discussed language in the draft Code that defines "volume based pricing" for curbside trash pickup. This is also referred to as "pay as you throw" and is designed to incentivize curbside recycling by charging more for higher trash volumes. The committee was asked to think about this and provide any comments to Cindy Kemper by July 24th.

WASTE TIRE GRANTS

Cindy Kemper is a member of KDHE's Solid Waste Grants Advisory Committee. She noted that waste tire grant awards were given to three Johnson County entities for playground uses, and several local schools received recycling grants.

BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

Craig Wood continued the discussion from the last meeting about criteria for Johnson County business recognition awards for green waste reduction efforts. The primary question brought before the committee was how often to review award applicants. Should the review process take place quarterly or less often? More information will be provided at the next meeting. Tom Stewart suggested that the committee appoint a sub-group to review the applications and present them for approval to the rest of the committee.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a meeting location change to room 1075. JCED will provide a light dinner served at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.