

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, July 11, 2007
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Hopkins.

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members present were: Floyd Danner, Kent Seyfried, Tom Stewart, Tom Ireland, Betty de Wit, David Green, Randy Alewine, Bob Stutz, Elaine Giessel, Mike Clagget, Ike Mallula, Cheryl Scott, and Ruth Hopkins. Others present included: Bill Franklin and Shelly Schneider of Franklin Associates; Carol Nalbandian, Facilitator; Megan Laha, County Manager's Office; and Cindy Kemper, Betsy Betros, Phil Askey, and Maureen Deeds, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

Mike Claggett informed the committee that in light of Ron Deffenbaugh's hospitalization, Deffenbaugh Industries has implemented a succession plan. Mark Rosenau, owner of Shawnee Rock Company, has assumed duties as president and will lead the company in business as usual.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ruth Hopkins entertained a motion to approve the June 13, 2007, Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) minutes as written. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

SOLID WASTE PLAN - DIRECTION FROM BOCC

Cindy Kemper reminded the committee that on July 19th Bill Franklin of Franklin Associates will update the BOCC on the need for a new Solid Waste Management Plan for Johnson County. Committee members were invited to attend. Ms. Kemper reviewed materials provided to BOCC in advance of the July 19 briefing.

WASTE DIVERSION GOALS & STRATEGIES - COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Ms. Kemper introduced Carol Nalbandian who has been retained to facilitate the next three SWMC meetings during which the committee will develop recommendations for the new Plan. Ms. Nalbandian facilitated the recently completed Ad Hoc Solid Waste Stakeholders Group process. She explained that her role is to keep the committee's discussion running smoothly and on task, and to ensure that everyone participates and has an opportunity to be heard. She reminded the committee that they serve as a citizen advisory group to the BOCC.

Ms. Nalbandian drew the committee's attention to handouts (attached) for guiding the meeting discussion. She identified "solid waste diversion" as the topic of focus at this meeting, specifically, how to increase diversion in the following areas: Residential, Commercial, and Construction and Demolition (C&D). The desired outcome of the committee's discussion is general agreement on waste diversion goals, strategies, and implementation options for the new Plan.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE DIVERSION

To start the discussion, Ms. Nalbandian asked each committee member to share their thoughts on the most important thing that should be done to increase residential waste diversion. The following ideas were shared:

- Increase participation in recycling
- Establish a numerical recycling goal
- Provide incentives to recycle
- Compost yard waste (leading to a ban on yard waste disposal in landfills)
- Make recycling convenient
- Implement an accurate system to track & report recycling rates
- Promote consistency county-wide (services & costs)
- Develop markets for recycled materials (yard waste)
- Provide alternatives to yard waste disposal in landfills

Several key underlying issues were identified:

- Ensuring adequate public & private infrastructure & resources to support increased waste diversion
- Providing adequate education, outreach and technical assistance for all of the Plan strategies
- Identifying public & private roles

The committee discussed the pros and cons of establishing a numerical goal in the Plan, and decided that BOCC direction on this issue would be beneficial. Several types of goals and numbers were suggested (a recycling goal from 32% to 45%, a disposal goal, a recycling participation goal from 70% to 90%). There appeared to be support among committee members for establishing a working goal that the committee could track as a measure of progress in implementing the new Plan. This working goal would not necessarily need to be identified in the Plan or endorsed by the BOCC.

After considerable discussion, the following ideas emerged as general consensus among committee members. Ms. Nalbandian stressed that Franklin Associates would develop these ideas into more specific written strategies and recommendations for committee consideration at a future meeting.

- Increase participation in recycling programs
- Promote county-wide consistency of materials collected and services provided
- Promote separate collection of yard waste for composting - The Plan should recommend alternatives to yard waste landfill disposal and once alternatives are widely available, prohibit landfill disposal of yard waste. The desired timeframe for implementing the landfill ban was within five years.

- Promote county-wide Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) collection rate structure - The Plan should recommend that the county move deliberately but cautiously toward county-wide volume-based curbside trash collection rates to minimize the cost and service impacts when the Deffenbaugh Landfill closes. Volume-based rates would incentivize recycling and should lead to an increase in recycling rates. It was suggested that "Save-As-You-Throw" might be a more positive way to communicate this recommendation than "Pay-As-You-Throw." It was acknowledged that this recommendation would require significant coordination with cities, homeowners associations, and the private sector; therefore, it would take more than five years to implement.

The following additional ideas also had support from committee members:

- Including a "mandatory pay" recycling recommendation in the Plan
- Including strategies in the Plan to reduce waste generation
- Incentivizing backyard composting by providing discounted or free compost bins
- Increasing the number of drop-off recycling sites
- Promoting the siting of new facilities in Johnson County to promote recycling and make it more convenient (such as Surplus Exchange or Missouri Organics)

Ms. Nalbandian summarized the Residential Waste Diversion discussion as follows:

- The committee believes that increased recycling will have the most significant impact on residential waste diversion.
- The committee desires to set a working waste diversion goal and a higher recycling participation rate.
- The committee sees a great need to involve the broader community (including cities) in the discussion over recycling and waste disposal.
- The county could provide education and technical assistance.
- In the next five years, it is possible to reach goals related to a ban on landfill disposal of yard waste and increased recycling participation rates.
- Increasing recycling participation rates and implementing a yard waste disposal ban will help prepare the county for volume-based rate structures.
- In the next five years, it may be possible to have a Surplus Exchange type facility in Johnson County.
- Recycling goals can be difficult to track because they cannot be easily measured.

There was insufficient time at the meeting to address the "commercial" and "construction & demolition" waste diversion issues. Ms. Nalbandian suggested that the August meeting be devoted to these topics, as well as reviewing draft written recommendations intended to incorporate the committee's "residential" waste diversion discussion.

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OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2007. The JCED will provide a light dinner served at 5:30 p.m. followed by a 6:00 p.m. meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Maureen Deeds
Date: 07/30/07

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