

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, August 8, 2007
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Chairperson Ruth Hopkins.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ruth Hopkins entertained a motion to approve the July 11, 2007, Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) minutes as written. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION WITH THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC)

Cindy Kemper and Bill Franklin, from Franklin Associates, appeared before the BOCC on July 19, 2007, to share progress on the development of the new Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan). Ms. Kemper provided the committee an overview of Commissioners' input on the work thus far by the SWMC. Key points from the discussion included:

- The BOCC is convinced solid waste planning is a serious issue with the Johnson County Landfill closing by 2027, and the County needs to be prepared.
- They agree we need to look at more aggressive waste reduction alternatives.
- They are disappointed the County recycling rate is so far below the national average.
- They agree that yard waste should be the initial waste reduction priority, and they did not appear to be opposed to a ban on yard waste once alternatives are available.
- They are interested in pursuing a "Pay As You Throw" program over time.
- They agree that a new landfill disposal site needs to be found, but it is not likely to be in Johnson County.
- They acknowledge there is a need for at least one new transfer station in this area.
- They encourage continued evaluation of more environmentally friendly disposal alternatives to landfilling for the long term future.
- They are generally satisfied with the progress on Plan development.

The committee discussed banning yard waste and the possible drawbacks including increased illegal dumping. The BOCC agreed it should not be banned until an alternative is in place, and supported the involvement of all Johnson County cities. Ms. Kemper will be presenting the draft Plan to the Council of Mayors this fall.

SWMC DISCUSSION ON COMMERCIAL & CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION (C/D) WASTE DIVERSION GOALS & STRATEGIES

Ms. Kemper welcomed Carol Nalbandian who is facilitating the next two SWMC meetings during which the committee will continue to develop recommendations for the new Plan.

Ms. Nalbandian opened the discussion by posing a question to the committee: **What is your role and what should it be as a Citizen Advisory Group?** She proposed three role options for the committee's consideration:

- Lead the way, cutting edge, aggressive
- Reflect what citizens want
- Reflect what is acceptable to the Governing Body (BOCC)

The committee generally agreed that all three roles are important. However, many members identified the first role, *leading the way*, as the most important.

Ms. Nalbandian asked the committee to consider **whether the recycling goal should be set high/low, and whether the goal could be self limiting?** It was determined that clarification was needed from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) about setting a goal and a timetable, and whether there are consequences for failing to achieve the goal.

Ms. Nalbandian opened a discussion about construction and demolition (C/D) waste recovery by polling the group to see who has knowledge and background in this area. Several committee members agreed that the county needs to do more in the area of C/D recycling, but adequate information about workable strategies is lacking, making it difficult for the committee to recommend specific strategies for the Plan at this time. It was noted that the public sector is becoming more active in encouraging C/D recycling by following LEED and other sustainability standards. Governments are in a unique position to encourage C/D recycling through building codes. The Plan could support these efforts. It was also noted that current C/D recycling rates are unknown, and there is a need to collect this data. The committee felt that the Plan should outline a process for addressing these information gaps over the next five years.

With regard to commercial food waste, Ms. Nalbandian asked **what is currently being done and does the committee have ideas to increase participation and composting efforts?** After much discussion, the committee expressed interest in siting a food waste/composting site in the county, but noted that issues related to odors, end product marketing and ownership need to be resolved first. The committee also

recommended that yard waste composting be addressed first, prior to spending significant public resources on developing food waste composting capacity in the county.

Ms. Nalbandian asked the committee for their ideas related to **commercial and multi-family residential waste reduction**. The discussion revealed significant opportunities for waste reduction in these sectors. However, there are also significant barriers such as reluctance to devote parking lot space to recycling bins. Mike Clagget suggested that commercial recycling is growing "on its own" because of the potential profit and cost savings to the private sector. He noted that the public sector role should be to promote the availability of these private services and work with the private sector to expand services in key areas. Several committee members expressed a desire to investigate "best practices" elsewhere and evaluate whether they might work here. The Plan should include a process for gathering this information and following up on the strategies with most promise. The Plan might also encourage recycling at public events and in public spaces.

REVIEW OF DRAFT RESIDENTIAL WASTE DIVERSION GOALS & STRATEGIES

Shelly Schneider of Franklin Associates distributed draft documents for review:

- Johnson County Potential Solid Waste Management Measures, Strategies and Scenarios
- Johnson County Future Solid Waste Management System Recommendations, Strategies and Implementation Schedule

Ms. Schneider said that the draft documents represent the committee's ideas from the July meeting which covered residential solid waste reduction and the county's role. The documents will continue to evolve based on discussion at this and future committee meetings.

Committee comments on the drafts were generally positive. Some concern was expressed regarding the resources needed to implement all the strategies in the documents. Ms. Kemper indicated that JCED would be requesting additional resources from the Commission, and that the strategies need to be prioritized so that the most important can be implemented first, should resources be insufficient to cover them all.

Ms. Kemper asked the committee to provide any additional feedback on the draft documents by August 22.

The September meeting will focus on waste disposal options for residential and commercial groups.

OTHER BUSINESS

New dates for upcoming meetings:

- October 23 (Tuesday) 3 - 5 p.m.; Presentation of draft Plan to Ad Hoc Solid Waste Stakeholders Group (Central Resources Library)
- October 25 (Thursday) 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. Presentation of draft Plan to Board of County Commissioners (Olathe County Administration Building)
- November 7 (Wednesday) 7 - 9 p.m. Public Hearing on the draft Plan (Sunset Drive Office Building)
- December 6 (Thursday) 9:30 a.m. Adoption of the Plan by the Board of County Commissioners (Olathe County Administration Building)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday September 12, 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 8:25 p.m.

Prepared by: Maureen Deeds
Date: 08/08/07