

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

JOHNSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2008
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice-Chairman Tom Stewart.

Committee members present: Randy Alewine, Floyd Danner, Kent Seyfried, Dave Greene, Gerry Miller, Elaine Giessel, Betty de Wit, Mike Clagett, Tom Ireland, Tom Stewart, Bob Tully and new member Maril Crabtree. Others present included special guest Bob Stutz; Bill Bider, KDHE-BWM; David Flora and Steve Fishman, EPA; Cindy Kemper, Betsy Betros, Phil Askey, Julie Coon and Phyllis Farmer, Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED).

Cindy Kemper announced that two new members, Maril Crabtree and Dave Drovetta, bring the Solid Waste Management Committee (SWMC) back up to full membership. Their resumes will be emailed to all committee members. Ms. Kemper welcomed Ms. Crabtree to the SWMC (Mr. Drovetta was absent).

Ms. Kemper thanked Bob Stutz who has recently "retired" from the committee. Mr. Stutz served many years as committee chairman and is honored for his long-term leadership and participation. He will be missed.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Ms. Kemper stated that minutes from both the March 12 and May 14 meetings need approval as there was no quorum at the May meeting. She noted the May 14 minutes were incorrectly dated March 12, 2008. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 12, 2008 and May 14, 2008 minutes, subject to the date correction. The motion was unanimously approved.

KANSAS CITY AREA CANS FOR HABITAT

Ms. Kemper introduced David Flora, recently retired from EPA, and Steve Fishman, EPA Region VII, who are working on a MARC solid waste grant proposal called Kansas City Cans for Habitat. Mr. Flora and Mr. Fishman asked for the SWMC's endorsement of the project which would collect revenue from the sale of recovered aluminum cans to build Habitat for Humanity homes.

After discussion, the committee decided to defer to staff to write a letter of support for the grant application if staff concludes the project has merit. Members generally felt it inappropriate for the SWMC to endorse specific grant projects.

KDHE SOLID WASTE UPDATE

Ms. Kemper introduced Bill Bider, Director of KDHE-Bureau of Waste Management. Mr. Bider engaged the SWMC on various solid waste issues that affect Johnson County as follows:

- Mr. Bider described the new Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan as one of the best plans KDHE has received.
- KDHE supports the yard waste restrictions recommended in the Plan. However, KDHE will not pursue a statewide yard waste ban at this time due to the diverse needs of each county.
- Mr. Bider asked whether the Plan specifies a timeframe for assessing and deciding on future waste disposal alternatives. Ms. Kemper replied that the Plan focuses on waste reduction measures in the earliest years. However, the Plan also recommends feasibility studies for disposal alternatives in the next few years.
- Mr. Bider stated KDHE's support for the Johnson County legislative proposal to clarify that County Commissions may assess a local fee to support the costs of implementing their Solid Waste Management Plans.
- Mr. Bider indicated that KDHE will seek an extension of the legislative sunset on the Waste Tire Grant Program which promotes the expanded use of waste tire-derived products.
- KDHE is launching a new Green Schools Grant Program to help schools implement green practices. The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is providing outreach to the schools.
- KDHE is launching a new Green Ambassadors Program that aims to use college students across Kansas to do public presentations on waste reduction. Several students will be hired in the Kansas City area and will be compensated \$60 for each half hour presentation. The program starts in January 2009.
- Mr. Bider stated solid waste landfill tonnage fees are generating about \$5.1 million per year for various solid waste management projects. Johnson County Landfill pays about \$1.7 million per year in tonnage fees to KDHE, and the other C/D landfills in the county increase the total to about \$2 million per year, or 39% of total revenues generated. About half of this revenue supports KDHE's solid waste programs.
- Mr. Bider said that APAC-Reno C/D Landfill continues to dewater the landfill and collect and burn landfill gas. APAC is being allowed to operate under the old KDHE landfill permit pending resolution of an appeal of the permit modification approved by KDHE earlier this year.
- KDHE is working with Deffenbaugh on two proposals which could affect the projected lifespan of the Johnson County Landfill. The first involves a new expansion permit modification called Phase 1-R which KDHE is likely to approve, pending resolution of some local zoning issues. The other proposal is whether it is feasible to go deeper in Phase 6, 40-50 feet below the Kansas River. While KDHE is willing to be persuaded otherwise, this depth is unprecedented in KS and they are very concerned about creating an inward flow of water coming into the landfill. Deffenbaugh is conducting field hydrogeologic studies to evaluate these concerns. KDHE may also hire expert consultants to evaluate this proposal. No formal permit application to deepen Phase 6 has been submitted to KDHE.

- KDHE has a new website where people can find recycling sites for most items in their community. Specific recycling facilities are listed and the website is updated continually.
- KDHE has calculated a decrease in MSW disposal rates in Kansas from 5.8 to 5.5 pounds per person per day. While per capita disposal rates continue downward, the total tonnage of waste disposal in Kansas remains flat due to the population increases.
- Potential changes to the C/D landfill regulations are still possible for locations with potential gas generation and water retention problems. KDHE will host a meeting in October with Kansas landfill operators to discuss gas assessment and monitoring of landfill contact water.
- A Kansas bill to place more restrictions on siting landfills near water ways or other sensitive receptors failed to pass the legislature. However, KDHE continues to hold public meetings whenever a proposed landfill permit application is submitted.

Mr. Tully commented that the Green School Grant Program is consistent with the Solid Waste Management Plan, and sounds promising. Julie Coon said she is already working with the Olathe School District and hopes to have other schools apply. KDHE mailed the Green School grant application to every school principal.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Ms. Kemper stated due to time constraints, two agenda items will be postponed to the next meeting in November: criteria for Plan consistency determinations and regional issues. The link to the Johnson County "Living Green" video will be emailed to committee members.

Julie Coon distributed a table that shows Plan implementation progress and went over the highlights with the committee. This table will be updated each meeting.

COUNTY BUDGET

Ms. Kemper stated that the Board of County Commissioners approved the 2009 county budget which includes authority to hire two new solid waste staff. This staff is needed to implement the new Solid Waste Management Plan. Deffenbaugh has agreed to fund one of these positions for three years; county tax support will pay for the other staff position. The 2009 budget also includes funding for public education material and about \$80,000 for consulting assistance. Ms. Kemper explained this funding is a bridge until state law can be amended to allow the Commission to assess a small fee on households and businesses to continue the implementation of the new Plan. Mr. Stewart stated that the purpose of this fee will have to be carefully articulated to the public.

OTHER BUSINESS

The draft meeting schedule for 2009 will be shared at the next meeting. James Joerke, Johnson County's new Sustainability Director, may attend.

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, November, 12, 2008 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 8:50 p.m.

Prepared by: Phyllis Farmer
Date: 9-10-08