

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

Members Present

Mark Taylor, Chair
Vic Nussbaum, Vice Chair
Kay Brandon
Tony Davies
Bob Mays
Tom Phillips
Bob Davis
Godfrey Uzochukwu

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Jason Jernigan
Nancy Lindemeyer
Gail Hay
Sheldon Smith

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the Field Operations Training Room.

Chair Mark Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Two guests were in attendance: Wayne Sharpe and Stan Joseph, Waste Management of the Carolinas.

Approval of minutes from October 23 meeting

Mr. Nussbaum moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Phillips. The Board acclaimed the minutes approved.

Chair Taylor suggested that Item A under Old Business should reflect that the Landfill Gas Task Force members have been appointed and consist of Mr. Davies, Mr. Nussbaum and Mr. Mays. The appointments were made in September and are retroactive to the beginning of the Commission.

WasteZero Presentation

Dale Wyrick introduced Greg Peverall, Vice President of business development with WasteZero in Raleigh. He stated that WasteZero is the premier pay-as-you-throw company operating in the U.S. Their goal is to cut residential waste in half throughout the country by changing how people pay for disposal of their solid waste.

Mr. Peverall named several cities that have participated in their program for more than 20 years. The program has many community incentives to ensure its success. Mr. Peverall presented an economic model which reflected data consisting of house counts, solid waste tonnages, and recycling tonnages estimated for the City of Greensboro.

Chair Taylor invited the commission members to ask questions.

Tom Phillips asked about the size of the trash bags provided by WasteZero. Mr. Peverall stated that two sizes were available – 13-gallon and 32-gallon. Mr. Phillips asked how WasteZero would handle trash that doesn't fit in bags. Mr. Peverall responded that some cities use a sticker program designating yard waste, bulk waste, and other items.

Bob Mays thanked the speaker for his presentation and shared his concerns about monitoring performance and compliance. He pointed out that Greensboro has a landfill but since it is not used, the city is not rewarded by creating more airspace in the landfill. Because of this, he wanted to be sure that the financial data prepared by WasteZero is geared toward Greensboro's situation. Mr. Peverall pointed out that there may be some carbon opportunities as Greensboro is not creating landfill gas.

Dr. Uzo asked Mr. Peverall about the types of challenges he faced. Mr. Peverall stated that bringing all the parties together - elected officials, community groups, and media is the main challenge. Openness and full disclosure with the community is very important.

Vic Nussbaum wanted to know what WasteZero's share of the disposal savings would be and Mr. Peverall responded that it is typically 15%.

Kay Brandon asked if the different size bags had different prices and Mr. Peverall responded that they do.

Tony Davies asked Mr. Peverall if there was a problem with consumers complaining that this is a disguised tax increase. Mr. Peverall acknowledged that this is sometimes a community reaction and stated that there is a program in place called "More Return", which could offer vouchers for use, especially for low income or moderate income residents.

Chair Taylor asked how many current municipal clients there are for the company located in North Carolina. Mr. Peverall stated that there are currently 10 municipalities in North Carolina. Chair Taylor asked if the program would start citywide or as a pilot program. Mr. Peverall suggested starting citywide in order to get financial savings and volume reduction. Chair Taylor stated his biggest concern is with enforcement and related problems – increases in illegal dumping, dumpster use, disposal in other bins, and recycling contamination. He also had concerns about homeowners/renters being fined for illegal use. Mr. Peverall stated that the most important testimony is from their current customers and that he would provide any information that the Commission feels is pertinent to their questions. Mr. Peverall stated that they have found that when municipalities shift from a solid waste collection system to a recycling system, there is a significant opportunity to become a volume reduction community. In regard to violations, the municipality may choose to send a friendly reminder or a violation fine.

Bob Davis stated that the presentation was modeled on the benefits coming back to the municipality and not burying trash. He asked if WasteZero has looked at how this model would be applied if a municipality wanted to move away from burying or not burying to a waste-to-energy kind of model. Mr. Peverall stated that he feels that it is a good program to implement before a waste energy component is done, in order to determine the correct volume for a waste-to-energy facility to determine their costs. Mr. Davis asked about cultural differences within a community, and how that monitoring might be interpreted. Mr. Peverall stated that they work with a diverse cultural spectrum in their service areas. The Worcester, Massachusetts insert has 20 languages and there is tremendous success in that program. It is all about public education. WasteZero offers their resources consisting of program manager, website development, tracking of recycling volume and solid waste volume, as well as communicating successes to the community, thereby bringing the whole community into the success of the program.

Vic Nussbaum asked if this would cause a reduction in collection fleet size or impact on staffing. Mr. Peverall responded that there could be a reduction in fleet size.

Dale Wyrick asked what percentage of programs that WasteZero has started are for local governments that operate solid waste management through a general fund rather than an enterprise fund. Mr. Peverall stated that his experience is that most participating cities want to move to an enterprise fund from a general fund to correctly charge costs to the homeowner.

Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Peverall for his presentation and his time and for answering the questions. Commission members will examine the information more closely as an item of interest. He suggested that commission members direct any additional questions to Dale and possibly schedule a follow-up meeting in the future. Chair Taylor directed a question to Dale Wyrick in regard to resident savings. Mr. Wyrick responded that this would be a policy decision, and he likes the idea of taking the City's current solid waste program from a general fund to an enterprise fund, thus reducing the property tax to offset the user fee. He likes the idea of accounting for all of the costs, reducing the general fund by that amount and paying for it all through a user fee. Residents should then recycle more since it would most likely remain free. They may end up recycling the wrong things and that is where the enforcement piece comes in.

Bob Mays recognized and welcomed new Council Member Jamal Fox to the meeting.

Old Business

a. White Street Landfill LFG Update

Dale Wyrick reported that the Landfill Gas to Energy project selection committee has narrowed their candidates to three vendors. The revenue that they expect to receive over a 15-year period is around \$2 million - not what they originally hoped for. This figure varies with a power purchase agreement. This involves taking a portion of the landfill gas to power generators and make electricity, then selling it back to Duke Energy. Per Council direction, staff is exploring a continued relationship with Cone Denim. The committee is waiting on responses from the three finalists and will then finalize a recommendation. City Council will be updated at the December 12 work session. This is still a viable project and since there is no capital outlay on the city's part (it is a developer financed project), any proceeds are revenue.

Bob Mays stated that he, Mr. Nussbaum and Mr. Davies attended a meeting and went through the proposals and he was very disappointed with the amount of money estimated for a 15-year period of time.

b. Draft Supplemental Rules of Procedure

Dale Wyrick explained that legal staff had no changes for the Supplemental Rules of Procedure. The only suggestion was that the Commission needed to determine term limits for committee members.

Tom Phillips stated that this commission was put together for a specific purpose and he feels that within five years the commission will have done their job, so he sees no reason to set up term limits to be rotated within that five-year period.

Chair Taylor stated that it was his understanding that the Commission is not a defined term entity. It does clearly state that the term of the commission shall be five years, and may be renewed for another five-year term. He feels this is related to the term of the Commission and not necessarily Commission members. He feels that a five-year term does not allow for any rotation for the members if the Commission continues and suggested that Commission members consider three-year terms with three rotating off each year. He feels this is important to allow members who are familiar with issues to offer their input and experience to newer members.

c. Draft Policy on use of the Commission's delegated funds

Dale Wyrick stated that discussion of the Commission's delegated funds is scheduled for the December meeting. He asked the Commission members to review the minor comments made by the Legal Department for discussion in December.

d. Finalize SWMC 2014 Work Plan

Dale Wyrick stated that the December 3 City Council meeting will focus on swearing in of new Council members and no business items will be heard, so discussion of the work plan will likely take place at the December 17 Council meeting.

Tom Phillips suggested that the work plan be given to the City Manager's office and put in Council member's boxes for their review.

Chair Taylor stated that he had received very few comments regarding the work plan from Commission members. He stated that Ms. Brandon suggested removing Objective #B.5 - the rail transport feasibility study item. He suggested that the commission maintain as an ongoing reference a document to be called, "Waste Management Strategies Adopted from the 2012 Task Force", which would be a background document that would include

B.5. Commission members agreed. Chair Taylor asked if Commission members wanted to continue looking at Objective #B.4 – "Continue study of a regional administrative structure in the form of a waste management authority", or leave it as a long-term strategy that may be revisited in 2015 or 2016. Commission members agreed to remove it from the work plan and leave it as a long-term strategy.

Tom Phillips asked about information on surrounding communities and their capacities. He feels that nothing regional is going to work until demand is there. An authority may need to be established in the future and this Commission can set up a structure so that others can be brought in at that time. He has experience as a member of the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority.

Chair Taylor reminded the commission that Objective #B.3, "Continue study of regional collaboration...", remains in the work plan, but #B.4 refers to an administrative structure. Dale Wyrick stated staff is working on that and will bring it to the Commission for review at the appropriate time.

Bob Davis asked why Objective III.B.2 was limited to North Carolina. Chair Taylor stated that this objective was focused on in-state practices, while Objective III.D.1 was broader in geographical scope. Mr. Davis thought we shouldn't restrict the former objective to one state. Commission members agreed to this change.

Chair Taylor stated that Mr. Phillips had previously suggested having a preface to the plan that talks about accomplishments since the dissolution of the 2012 Task Force. Dale Wyrick stated a memo has been created and sent to City Council that could serve this purpose. Chair Taylor also suggested a new "IV. Schedule" item stating, "A. Provide and submit an update to this plan to City Council by July 15, 2014, including all Commission-approved or endorsed task force and committee reports, work group reports, vendor proposals, etc.". Item B is "Prepare and submit the 2015 Solid Waste Management Commission work plan to City Council by January 20, 2015". Commission members agreed to add this to the plan. He asked if the Commission members were interested in adding a new item IV to the work plan ~~and~~ establishing subcommittees and work groups to work on the plan. The consensus was to not add this item and establish work groups at a later time.

In summary, the proposed 2014 Work Plan is revised to drop objectives 4 and 5 from III.B, modify III.B.2 to drop "in NC", and add IV. Schedule as discussed.

Mr. Phillips moved to adopt the proposed Work Plan as revised, seconded by Mr. Mays. There was no further discussion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Bob Mays asked that Dale Wyrick send updated reports by email to the Commission members as things progress.

e. Update on Super Granger Group Ltd, America Branch Inc. WSLF proposal

Dale Wyrick stated that there was a presentation last week from Super Granger Group Ltd, to the Economic Development Committee regarding recycling Greensboro's leaves. No decisions have been made yet.

Chair Taylor stated that there have been comments that this subject should have come to this Commission prior to going to the Economic Development Committee. He believes there is merit to continuing discussions along those lines for future matters. Solid waste matters should come to the Commission before they go to committees and appear in the newspaper. He stated that the commission will no longer monitor this agenda item unless and until staff believes our review and/or input is needed. It appears to be an operational matter regarding leaf inventory control at this point. Staff is studying a proposal and will be advising the Council.

f. Update on Consultant review of WSLF post-closure restrictions

Dale Wyrick stated that he had nothing to report and he is unsure of when the commission can move forward on this. Staff would need more direction. Chair Taylor stated that the goal is to have a summary of the regulatory environment that affects the post-closure uses of the White Street landfill.

New Business

None

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is December 18, 2013, at 3:00 pm.

Proposed agenda items:

- a. Discuss/finalize Supplemental Rules of Procedure
- b. Discuss/Finalize policy on use of the Commission's delegated funds

Comments from Commission, Staff, Council Representatives

None

Adjournment

Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mays. There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Mark Taylor, Chair

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