

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
JANUARY 22, 2014**

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Nancy Lindemeyer
Jason Jernigan
Gail Hay
Chris Marriott
Sheldon Smith
Mary McClellan

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Field Operations Training Room.

Chair Mark Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Two guests were in attendance: Marikay Abuzaiter, City Council Representative, and Stan Joseph, Waste Management of the Carolinas.

Approval of minutes of December 18, 2013 meeting

Chair Taylor declared the minutes approved by acclamation seeing that no changes needed to be made.

Kay Brandon suggested the wording be changed from “assigning work groups” to “establishing work groups”, and Chair Taylor agreed that the language should be changed.

Bob Davis stated that he was surprised that Chair Taylor met with the Mayor. He requested that the Commission members be informed when such meetings take place in the future as they may also like to attend.

Chair Taylor stated that the meeting was to determine what the Mayor's priorities were and what she thought the Council's priorities were, and that if the Commission was not comfortable with such meetings, other arrangements would be made.

Post-closure landfill uses and overview of regional study (Joe Readling, HDR)

Chair Taylor stated that Mr. Readling's presentation is a response to the Commission's request for guidance relevant to state and federal regulations regarding post closure uses of the landfill with particular focus on adjacent property that is city owned and not filled with waste.

Joe Readling of HDR Engineering, Charlotte NC, stated that he started working for the City in 1990 and did some of the engineering work at the White Street Landfill in the late 1980's. The oldest area of waste fill is in phase one and the phase two area received waste until 1998. The landfill does not have a liner system and has been capped off in accordance with state regulation but there is construction demolition debris on top of the municipal solid waste.

The state requires a buffer area or a certain distance from the edge of waste. Generally the distance is 300 ft. according to state regulations but with phase three the buffer distances were increased to 525 ft. since it was closer to residential areas. State regulations require the establishment of a facility boundary to provide space for ground water monitoring and room to mitigate any problems that may arise. While working on the permits for the landfill the city was acquiring additional properties and adding them to the overall landfill with the expectation that it would be active for many years. The facility boundary was kept close since every time property was added it would need to be amended leaving the borrow area out of the solid waste permit area which gives some additional latitude to the city in respect to development. This area is a little more than 80 acres.

Vic Nussbaum asked if there were any of the 525 ft. buffers around the phase III area. Mr. Readling stated that there are, however they are not specifically shown on the map. He pointed out these areas on the map shown.

Chair Taylor stated that everything in the permit is a DENR issue so anything specified in the permit is regulated by DENR. Mr. Readling stated that the phase I and II areas of the landfill are probably not good areas for development as far as structural building.

Dale Wyrick asked if it would be feasible for a solar farm to be placed in the landfill that featured a ballast type system to weigh down the solar panels.

Mr. Readling stated that the state requirements say “Post-closure use of the property shall not disturb the integrity of the cap system, the base liner system or any of the components of the containment system or the function of the monitoring systems unless it necessary to meet the requirements of the state section.” A ballasted solar system is reasonable but would be decided by the state. Passive uses of the land are also reasonable like the North Wake landfill which has a park on top of it not requiring any buildings.

Bob Mays asked if something was planned in the borrow area and if some of the facility boundaries needed to be moved, who would that be discussed with. Also what would be the consequences of closing phase III. Mr. Readling stated that if you could leave the facility boundary in place after closing phase III, that would be the easiest from a state perspective and the discussion would be internal to the city.

Bob Mays asked how much time would be involved to petition the state for a DENR permit amendment. Mr. Readling stated that if no boundaries were being changed for a permit amendment it would take a few months to be reviewed. If asking to move boundaries, an amendment would require public hearings.

Bob Mays asked how long the process would be to close the phase III area of the landfill. Mr. Readling stated that it would take a year or more to finalize the closing of phase III.

Dale Wyrick stated HDR has put together a list of all the facilities, public and private, in a 75 mile radius that may be considered for Greensboro and the different types of waste that they take.

Chair Taylor asked if it would be possible to create a map that shows restrictive zones of the White Street Landfill relating to future uses. Mr. Readling stated there are many documents that have been created concerning the WSL but they haven’t been put together on the same map. A micro-land use and zoning map was discussed many years ago around the time there was discussion to close WSL.

Dale Wyrick stated that he would move forward with a comprehensive map for the future uses of the WSL. Chair Taylor asked Mr. Wyrick to find out how the creation of

the map would be funded and stated that it would fit nicely into one of the work groups for discussion.

Old Business

a. White Street Landfill LFG Contract Update

Dale Wyrick stated that the Commission is still working with the recommended contractor to establish some MWBE goals and hopes to bring the LFG contract to City Council by its first meeting in February.

b. Update on Waste Zero proposal

Dale Wyrick stated that he had a follow-up discussion with Greg Peverall from Waste Zero. Greg inquired about the Commission's next step regarding Waste Zero. Mr. Peverall provided a summary of responses to questions raised during his presentation in November and it was distributed to the Commission members and reiterated that he is in it for the long-haul.

Chair Taylor stated that he has read the summary and thinks this is a good topic to go to one of the work groups on waste reduction strategies.

c. Report on MEMIOS meeting (WTE concept for City of GSO)

Vic Nussbaum and Dale Wyrick met with the MEMIOS company and stated that MEMIOS's core business is to transport waste pneumatically for centralized collection, as is being done in some hospitals locally. A technology was discussed at the meeting which would convert MSW into energy using a small scalable unit at the transfer station. A thermo-chemical reaction is used and the energy is sold back to Duke Power. There is not a facility currently using this system anywhere in the U.S. They are proposing a pilot program (20 tons/day) and they have an individual investor who will do the financing. The City's responsibility for this program would be to provide space for equipment and put a hole in the side of the building at the transfer station where a conveyor could be attached to pick up the trash.

Dale Wyrick stated that MEMIOS is established as a Greensboro company and that he met with them a couple of years ago. They are interested in going into new

developments and putting in waste transportation systems that would eliminate garbage trucks, congestion, pollution, etc. Mr. Wyrick questioned the practicality of the system, as there is not one set up anywhere in the US.

Chair Taylor stated that the pros and cons of the issue could be discussed by one of the work groups but if staff finds too many flaws, it would not be considered further. The biggest potential hurdle may be the City's legal department regarding a contract.

Tony Davies asked what the residue would be like for the system. Vic Nussbaum stated that MEMIOS says the residue is a sellable by-product and there is a buyer for it.

Bob Davis asked how practical this idea would be for residential solid waste disposal. Vic Nussbaum stated that MEMIOS would tap in at the transfer station and the waste would not be put on a truck.

Dale Wyrick stated that certain types of waste would be more advantageous and it would be sorted through.

New Business

a. Formation of work groups for SWMC 2014 Work Plan

Chair Taylor stated that last month he invited everyone to send their preferences for the work groups and four goals were identified as priority tasks. A handout was given to the Commission members with the Chairman's first draft of the work groups. Four commissioners have agreed to be leaders of the work groups and will be held accountable to make the Commission more of an asset to the Council. The four work groups are:

- White Street Landfill utilization and post-closure strategies; Bob Mays (leader), Kay Brandon and Bob Davis
- MSW Disposal strategies – MSW alternative facility development; Mark Taylor (leader), Tom Phillips and Bob Mays
- MSW Disposal strategies - regional collaboration; Tom Phillips (leader), Ray Trapp and Bob Davis
- MSW recycling and reduction strategies; Vic Nussbaum (leader), Godfrey Uzochukwu and Tony Davies

Dale Wyrick was asked to assign one or more staff members to each of the work groups.

Tony Davies stated that he is happy to be in the recycling and reduction strategies group, but would also like to be involved in the review of the MEMIOS proposal.

Chair Taylor stated that as the work groups call meetings, the entire Commission could be made aware so that other Commissioners may attend.

Nancy Lindemeyer stated that if five or more Commission members attend a meeting, a 48-hour notice would need to be given with the date, time and location of the meeting. It will be confirmed whether or not formal minutes will need to be recorded.

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on the work groups and stated that more groups could be created if the need arises. He stated that much work needs to be done away from the monthly commission meetings in order to make real progress on the issues.

b. Update on Randolph County Landfill

Dale Wyrick stated that he met with Stan Josephs from Waste Management and asked Stan to give an update on their role in building the new Randolph County Regional Landfill.

Stan Josephs stated that Waste Management has been selected to partner with Randolph County on the permitting and construction of a new regional landfill in Randolph County. Currently work is under way to finalize the negotiation of the final agreement with Randolph County and is expected to wrap up in the next 30 to 60 days, at which time the permitting will begin. The expectation is that waste should be accepted in the last quarter of 2015 or the first quarter of 2016.

Bob Davis asked about the status of the discussions of a regional landfill for Rockingham County. Dale Wyrick stated that those discussions are not on-going at this time because of a legal issue.

Mr. Wyrick asked Mr. Josephs what the daily allowable volume would be for the Randolph Regional Landfill. Stan Josephs stated that part of the current negotiations is to raise the threshold to around 3,200 tons per day.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 26, 2014, at 3:00 pm.

Proposed agenda items:

- a. City contracts for MSW disposal (discussion)
- b. Work group tasks

Comments from Commission, Staff, Council Representatives

Dale Wyrick asked members to keep in mind that the first three-year term for contracted MSW transport and disposal is up October 2015 and to think about options including extending current contracts beyond the original three-year term.

Chair Taylor stated that it is appropriate for the Commission to consider this and requested that Mr. Wyrick bring any feedback from a political view concerning Council's inclinations.

Adjournment

Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mays. There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,
Mark Taylor, Chair

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