



HENDERSON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) minutes: May 17, 2010

Present: Chairman Stan Kumor, Mr. Jim Phelps, Ms. Katie Breckheimer, Mr. Terry Maybin, and Mr. Robert Delwiche, Ms. Debbie Hicks, and Ms. Emily Anderson.

Guests: Mr. Jack Keyes with Etowah Lions and Susan Brown with ECO.

Staff: Ms. Alexis Baker, Mr. Marcus Jones, and Ms. Natalie Berry.

Welcome/Call to Order:

Chairman Kumor called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Passing of Tom McCullough:

News of Tom McCullough passing in auto accident. Mr. Kumor attended the funeral and expressed condolences on behalf of the committee.

The open committee position will be filled upon the application and approval process by the Henderson County Commissioners. The position of Vice Chairman will be brought to a vote after the open committee position is filled.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 15, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: An update on the capital improvements with regards to the Stoney Mountain Transfer Station as follows: Marcus Jones, Henderson County Engineer reports that the design phase and plans are almost complete. Plans will be submitted to NC DENR and building inspections hopefully within the next month. Permit renewal will go hand-in-hand the submission of and approval request of the plans. All right of way and public property issues have been resolved except for one issue with the neighboring School Bus repair facility. This issue is resolvable by changing layout of the new driveway in order to give good distance from the garage. DOT may do the paving for entrances and road along with the maintenance of these, in exchange for the ability to use the facility at no cost. They will only be allowed to dispose of waste from Henderson County.

Request for qualifications for the MRF have been met with six submissions. Vendors have submitted statements of their qualification regarding their capability to provide what is needed for the MRF. Once qualification is determined, they will then be asked to provide a quote for pricing. Continuing to work on

the lease of the facility to house the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and that is expected to come before the commissioners shortly. Two possible locations are in consideration.

The 2009 Household Hazardous Waste Grant for \$20,000.00 is not going to be able to be overlapped into the construction. The HHW Building is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday May 19 2010 and an event will be held as required by the regulations stated for award of the grant monies by the end of May. The first event will act as a training session for staff and will be advertised at the Stoney Mtn. Road facility. The HHW building will be placed temporarily by the old animal shelter until construction of the new facility will allow for more permanent placement. Denise Bleuw will be aiding in the training of the Henderson County staff for the first event along with other trained volunteers.

Mr. Jones reported that Henderson County will be receiving a \$40,000.00 DPPEA grant toward equipment for the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The grant has not been officially awarded but Mr. Jones was in contact with Scott Mow with DPPEA, who verbally conveyed the information. McMinn Waste Removal and the Etowah Lion's Club have also been awarded DPPEA grants for modifying equipment within their fleets in order to aid the recycling efforts put forth by the companies. It was encouraged by Katie Breckheimer and Mr. Kumor for Henderson County staff to make the grant awards part of a Times-News article when the timing is appropriate and the awards of the grant/s are official.

New Business: Mr. Jones reported on the upcoming (December 31, 2010) contract renewal process with Waste Management for hauling out the Transfer Station and Convenience Center items. Currently discussion with Waste Management in regards to extending their contract as well as preparing a request for proposal to be released this summer. The goal is to obtain the best price for hauling and Mr. Jones believes by the informal numbers he's been given thus far, the hauling will come in at budget. Mr. Kumor reports that this will be a 10 year term contract with a possible 20% increase. With increase efforts in recycling the increase in cost of hauling MSW will hopefully be offset. Mr. Jones further explains the monetary benefits of separating Construction and Demolition from MSW and that the new facility will allow for this separation. Once separation happens this will lower the hauling volume and in turn the costs. Inquiry as to the use of fuel clause and escalation clause was answered by Mr. Jones by stating that they can be included if so decided but the cost for this is paid up front. Discussion ensues about other options for disposal other than landfills due to the strain that current regulations and lack of space is taking on this most cost effective disposal method at this time for Henderson County. Ms. Susan Brown with ECO inquired about the cost off-set potential of the methane that could provide if Henderson County had a new landfill. Mr. Jones and Mr. Kumor explain that the land requirements for a new landfill are not available within the county.

Mr. Jones reports that the original (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) DENR Inspection from March 10th which resulted in several Notices of Violations has prompted action from the Solid Waste Division to rectify the problems discovered. Ms. Natalie Berry is currently working with Engineer's and Solid Waste staff to bring the site up to regulation. Due to the fact that DENR has more recently begun to enforce newer and more stringent guidelines, the inspector for DENR has been very willing to work with Henderson County in allowing time to give attention to the issues. The violations include vegetative growth on waste, leachate seeps on the landfill, trash debris scattered on site, and

erosion issues at the closed C&D (Construction and Demolition) section. The concern regarding the vegetative growth is the interference it can cause with the cap that is required on top of the landfill. Notice of Violations act as a warning and there are no fines assessed with them. If the issues are not handled then it could lead to compliance order which could lead to a fine. Surrounding counties are also facing the same NOV's. Mr. Jones conveyed that Ms. Berry has made huge strides in getting all of the issues resolved.

Ms. Debbie Hicks requested clarification on the acceptance of yard waste. Yard Waste is accepted at 802 Stoney Mountain Road but is no longer available to the public as mulch due to DENR composting rules and regulations. Henderson County would need a composting permit which may be possible once the new facility is built. Properly composting would cost money to do and Henderson County would in turn have to charge the public rather than giving it away for free as it had been done in the past. The county is currently looking into using a company in Mills River to handle the hauling away of the yard waste.

The process of hiring a new Solid Waste Manger has been slow due to the necessity to address the DENR Inspection results. Twelve qualified applicants are being considered. The decision will be made by Mr. Jones and hopefully an announcement will be made by July 1, 2010.

At the previous SWAC meeting Mr. Terry Maybin expressed concern that trash dumpsters are replacing regular trash pickup in neighborhoods and that these dumpsters are not abiding by county ordinance in that recycling is being thrown in with the regular trash. Mr. Jones spoke with both the planning director and the code enforcement director regarding the subject and a dumpster is not a permitted accessory in residential areas and therefore is not allowed by Henderson County Land Development Code. It is a complaint driven ordinance so there is no one policing to enforce this code. Commercial use is permitted to use a dumpster which includes a resident with a business in their home. To report a violation anonymously, of dumpster usage in a residential area someone would need to contact Code Enforcement at 828-697-4857. Businesses still must comply with the privacy fence regulation in order to have a dumpster. Ms. Debbie Hicks asked about how the haulers providing commercial dumpsters are being currently required to offer recycling. Mr. Jones explains that the commissioner's transition plan states that haulers have a year's time in which they must offer recycling and that includes commercial haulers. When a hauler comes to be re-permitted next year they may possibly be denied a permit. Mr. Maybin asked about enforcement of the banned materials. Mr. Jones explains that the state does not have employee's that are policing the dumpsters and making sure that banned items are not being throw in. Henderson County is trying to use policies and regulations that will stop the disposal of banned materials into the Transfer Station. Mr. Jones also explains that a report will be run at that end of the year to see which haulers are complying. Ms. Debbie Hicks expressed her concern that her materials were not weighed for several months. Mr. Jones assured the group that he will require quantifiable proof of recycling to ensure that all haulers are in compliance. Mr. Kumor prompts the committee to move forward with discussion of the next topic with the understanding that the issue of educating the public in regards to proper recycling will be address again at the next meeting.

Staff Reports as given from Alexis Baker include the presentation of the Environmental Stewardship award presented on Earth Day to Miss. Stephanie Cope for her winning drawing in the art contest. Earth Day has lead to many opportunities in the past several months for Ms. Baker to educate large groups in regards to recycling. The Solid Waste website contains a section which holds entries of the latest news and happening in which anyone can see what events and/or speaking engagements have been done.

Battery recycling was very successful at the Earth Day celebration with over 300 pounds of batteries collected. There is permanent collection bins at 802 Stoney Mountain Road for rechargeable and non-rechargeable. Also accepted are thermostats taken in the gate house. Alexis is also working on an article for the Times-News which will include the above information.

The Material Reports overview shows that waste disposal is down and recycling is up. The report looks to be suspect in that the numbers for 2009 do not appear to be right. The numbers will be review to search for probable discrepancies.

Ms. Katie Breckheimer requested another tour on behalf of ECO. All of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee members are invited to this all day event tentatively scheduled for sometime in October. The County will be providing transportation. The possible tour locations include the company that receives the methane from the closed county landfill, the Coca-Cola bottling plant in upstate South Carolina and/or the BMW plant. Ms. Breckheimer will report back in July with an update on tour plans.

Ms. Alexis Baker noted that the county will be loaning 15 bins for Garden Jubilee and requested volunteers for that Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 6:00p.m. Also, upcoming is a class lead by Diane Turner with Cooperative Extension on home composting. Mr. Jim Phelps added that it was national Hemp History week and there is a convention in Asheville, NC all week demonstrating products and the benefits from using Hemp. Also, on Thursday there will be an event at the Co-op on Grove Street. To learn more about HEMP you can go to www.votehemp.com

Mr. Terry Maybin requested that a Haulers meeting be scheduled. A meeting date will be set at the next SWAC meeting. Items for discussion will include the choice to not allow franchising of hauling within Henderson County.

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2010.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Ms. Rebecca Coplin

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